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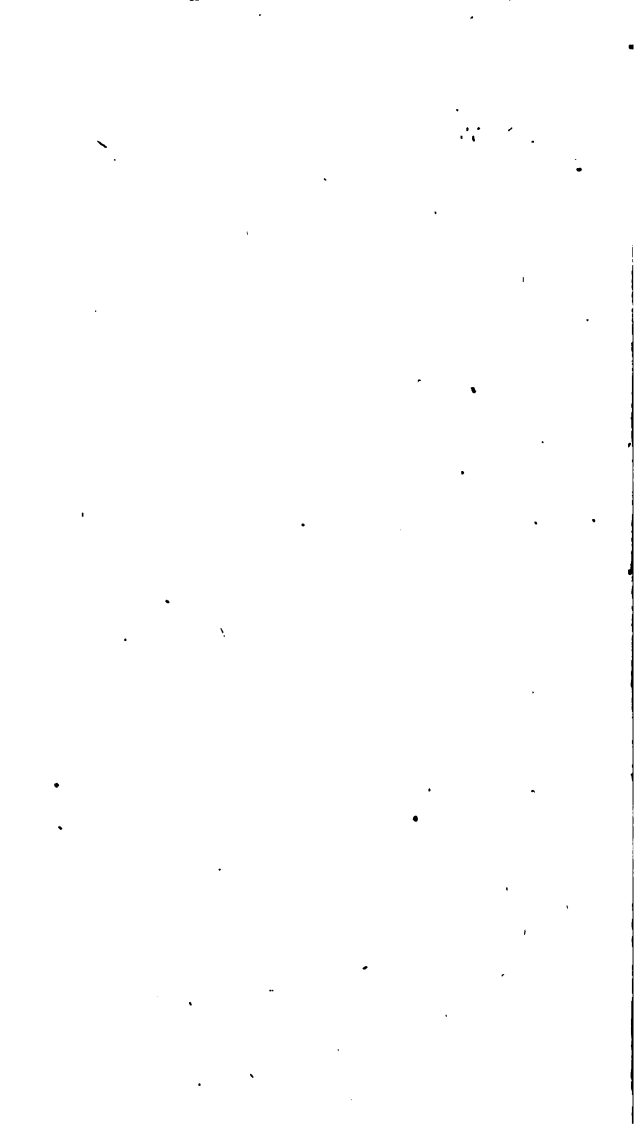
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Pon RBS



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A
V O Y A G E
T O
Æ T H I O P I A,
M A D E

In the Years 1698, 1699, and 1700.

DESCRIBING

Particularly that Famous Empire;
as also the Kingdoms of DONGOLA,
SENNAR, part of EGYPT, &c.

W I T H

The Natural History of those Parts.

By Monsieur P O N C E T, M. D.

Faithfully Translated from the French Original.

L O N D O N,

Printed for W. LEWIS at the *Dolphin*,
next *Tom's Coffee-House* in *Russel-*
street, *Govent-Garden*, 1709.

A

W O R L D

O F

THE PAPER

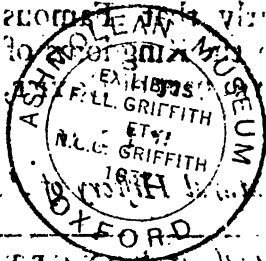
MADE

In the year 1872, the first issue of the

WORLD was published

by the W. L. G. in New York, and the first

issue was published on the 1st of January



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THE
PREFACE.

I Doubt not, but this
Voyage of Mon-
sieur *Poncet*, will
meet with a favourable
Reception from all those
who have a nice Taste in
the Choice of Books and
subjects. He was an able
A 2 Doctor

The Preface.

Doctor of Physick, liv'd at *Caire* the Capital City of *Egypt*; and gave such pregnant Demonstrations of his Abilities in those Parts, that the Emperour of *Aethiopia* being tair'd with an Illness which threaten'd his Life, he was prevail'd upon as the best qualify'd Physician to undertake the Cure.

This being the Motive of Monsieur *Poncet's* coming, making

The Preface.

making this Voyage, we must not wonder that the Governours of all the Towns as he pass'd, should do him the greatest Honors, regale him with all the Varieties which were peculiar to every City; that the Kings of *Senar* and *Dongola* should entertain him as well with all the Curiosities appertaining to their respective Kingdoms, as with their courteous Carriage,

The Preface.

riage, and noble Presents; that at last having perform'd a great and perfect Cure on the Emperor's Person, he should not only be admitted into his good Graces, but also become intimate with those who had the chief Administration of State Affairs, which certainly enabled him to make a more accurate Discovery of the Government and Policy of

The Preface

the Laws and Constitutions, and of the Wealth, Trade and Dealings of that vast extended Empire, than any other Traveller, who was not favor'd with the same Privileges, could pretend to do. *So that upon the whole,* there's no Room for the Reader to doubt but that *this Relation of Monsieur Boncet is a Master Piece in its Kind,* since he was
evod fur-

The Preface.

furnish'd with so many
considerable Helps to-
wards the polishing of it.
He first presents to your
View the Kingdoms of
Sennar, Dongala &c. which
pay Tribute to the Empe-
ror of *Aethiopia*, adorn-
ing his Relation with se-
veral agreeable Passages
to divert the Reader;
from thence he proceeds
to give an Account of
Aethiopia it self, that
vast Empire, being a-
bove

The Preface.

bove seven Months Travel in Circuit, and comprehending twenty four Tambour's or Vice-Roys, besides several Provinces govern'd by Princes, who are Vassals to that Powerful Monarch; a Kingdom of so great a Bulk, and which makes such a considerable Figure in the World, affords Monsieur Ponce, as the Reader will find, curious and extraordinary Matter to work

The Preface.

work upon *M*, and to give him his Due, he winds up the several Threads of his Discourse, and expounds his Thoughts after a most intelligible and charming manner.

In fine, Monsieur *Pon-*
cet gives curious Collecti-
ons of his Travels back
to *Europe*. He made some
Stay at *Mecca*, a Place fa-
mous for *Mahomet's*
Birth: From thence he
passes to *Medina*, a Place
re-

The Preface.

renown'd for *Mahomet's*
Burial and Sepulchre.

I shou'd grow too large
for a Preface, shou'd I
trace all the Particulars
of Monsieur *Poncet*, as
far as he does lead me :
wherefore not to forestall
the Reader, I'll leave it
to him to find out the
rest of the many surpris-
ing Particulars, that
will give them a better
Relish, and render them
more diverting to him.

A

removal for Alabaster's
 British and Sepulchre.
 I should grow too large
 for a Preface, should I
 trace all the Particulars
 of Mountain Power, as
 far as he does lead me;
 therefore not to forget all
 the Reader, I'll leave it
 to him to find out the
 rest of the many Inqui-
 ring Particulars, that
 will give them a better
 notion of the Power of
 more diverting to him.

A

A
VOYAGE
TO
ÆTHIOPIA.

In the Year 1698, 1699, and 1700.



Set out from *Cair*
the Metropolis of
Egypt, on the 10th
of *June*, of the Year
1698, in Company
of *Hagi Ali*, an
Officer of the Em-
perour of *Æthio-*

pia. and *Father Charles Francis Xa-*
verius de Brevedent Missioner of the
Jesuits. We Imbark'd upon the *Nile*

B

at

2 *A Voyage to Æthiopia.*

at *Boulack*, which is half a League distant from that City. The Waters being low, and our Pilots very Unskilful, we spent fifteen Days before we reach'd *Manfelou*, altho' when the River is High, and with a favourable Gale that Journey is usually made in five Days. *Manfelou* is a Town of the higher *Egypt*, Famous for the Traffick of Linen-cloth. The Grand Signior keeps a Garrison there of 500 *Fanisaries*, and 200 *Spahi's* to hinder the Excursion of the *Arabians*, who Ravage all that Country.

The Rendezvous of the Caravans of *Sennar* and *Æthiopia* is at *Ibnah* half a League above *Manfelou*. We encamp'd in that Village, to wait till all the Caravan was assembled, and we continu'd for above three Months under our Tents, in which we suffer'd much; for the Heats of that Country are insupportable, especially to Europeans, who are not accusom'd to them. The Sun is so burning hot, that from ten a Clock in the Morning to the Evening we cou'd scarce draw Breath. After having purchas'd Camels, and made our necessary Provisions for the passing the Desarts of *Libya*, we quit-
ted

ted that unpleasant Abode on *September* the 24th about three a Clock in the Afternoon, and we took up our Lodging at about a League and a half distance on the Eastern Bank of the *Nile*, in a Place call'd *Cantara*, where we were oblig'd to take up our Quarters for some Days, in expectation of the Merchants of *Girge* and of *Syout* who were not then arriv'd.

A Relation of the King of *Sennar* invited me to go to *Syout* and sent me an Arabian Horse. I pass'd over the *Nile* upon a very large Bridge, built with fair Stone. I am perswaded, that 'tis the only Bridge upon this River, and I got to the Town in four Hours time. I beheld the Ruins of an ancient and magnificent Amphitheater, with some Mausoleums of the ancient Romans. The Town of *Syout* is encompass'd with delicious Gardens, and fair Palm-Trees, which bear the best Dates of all *Egypt*. Having at my Return found all the Company met, we set forward on the 2d of *October* early in the Morning, and from that very Day we enter'd a frightful Desert. These Deserts

are extremely dangerous, because the Sands being moving are rais'd by the least Wind which darken the Air, and falling afterwards in Clouds, Passengers are often buried in them, or at least lose the *Route*, which they ought to keep.

They observe great Order in the Marches of the Caravans. Besides the Commander who is to decide all Disputes and Differences that shall arise, there are certain Guides who march at the Head of the Caravans, and who give the Signal both for moving and halting, by the Beat of a Kettle-drum. They set out three or four Hours before Day against which time all the Camels and all the Beasts of Burden are to be in a readiness; there is no losing Sight or stragling from it, without evident Danger of perishing. The Guides are so expert, that altho' there appear no Track upon the Sand, they never go a Step out of the Way. After having travell'd till Mid-day, they stop for about half an Hour, without unloading the Camels, and after having taken a little Rest, they pursue their Journey until three or four Hours within the Night.

Whereas

Whereas they observe in all their Encampments, the same Rank and Order which they had at their first setting out, there never happens any Dispute among the Passengers concerning that.

We Arriv'd on the 6th of *October* at *Helaoue*; 'Tis a pretty large Borough, and the last that is under the Grand Signior's Jurisdiction. There is a Garrison in it of 500 *Fanisaries* and 300 *Spahi's* under the Command of an Officer whom in that Country they call *Kachif*. *Helaoue* is very pleasant, and answers fully its Name, which signifies a Country of Sweetness. Here are to be seen a great Number of Gardens water'd with Brooks, and a World of Palm-trees, which preserve a continual Verdure, *Coloquintida* is to be found there, and all the Fields are fill'd with *Senna*, which grows upon a Shrub, about three Foot High. This Drug which is so much Esteem'd in Europe, is of no use in the Country hereabouts. The Inhabitants of *Helaoue* in their Illnesses, make only Use of the Root of *Ezula*, which for a whole Night they infuse in Milk, and take the day after, having first Strain'd

6 *A Voyage to Æthiopia:*

it thro' a Sieve. This Medicine is very Violent, but 'tis what they like and commend very much. The *Exula* is a thick Tree, the Blossom of which is blue; it grows into a sort of Ball, of an Oval Figure, full of Cotton, of which the People of that Country make pretty fine Cloth.

We rested four Days at *Helaous* to take in Water and Provisions; for we were to pass thro' a Desert, where there was neither Brook nor Fountain. The Heat is so excessive, and the Sands of those Deserts so burning, that there is no marching bare-foot, without having ones Feet extremely swell'd. Nevertheless the Nights are Cold enough, which Occasions troublesome Distempers in those who Travel thro' that Country, unless they take great Precautions. After two Days March, we came to *Chabbe*, which is a Country full of Alum, and within three Days we Reach'd to *Selyma*, where we furnish'd our selves with Water for five Days, from an excellent Spring, which is in the Middle of the Desert. Those vast Wildernesses, where there is neither to be found Bird, nor wild Beast, nor Herbs, no nor so much as a little

little Fly, and where nothing is to be seen but Mountains of Sand, and the Carcasses, and Bones of Camels, Imprint a certain horror in the Mind, which makes this Voyage very tedious and disagreeable. It wou'd be a hard matter, to Cross those frightful Desarts without the Assistance of Camels. These Animals will continue six or seven Days, without either eating or drinking, which I cou'd never have believ'd, if I had not observ'd it very particularly. That which is yet more surprising is, what a venerable old Man, Brother of the Patriarch of *Æthiopia* who was of our Caravan, assured me, *viz.* That having twice made the Journey from *Selyma* to *Sudan* thro' the Country of the Negro's, and having each time spent forty Days in passing the Desarts, which lie in the Road, the Camels of that Caravan had neither eat nor drunk during that whole time. Three or four Hours Rest in a Night suffices them and supplies the want of Food, which you are not to give them, before you have water'd them, because they wou'd otherwise burst.

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The Kingdom of *Sudan* lies Westward of that of *Sennar*. The Merchants of the higher *Egypt* trade thither for Gold and Slaves. The Kings of *Sennar* and *Sudan* are almost continually at Wars. As for the Mules and Asses which they make use of in passing thro' those Desarts, they give them every Day only a small quantity of Water.

On the 26th of *October* we arriv'd at *Machou* a good large Township on the Eastern Bank of the River *Nile*. This River forms in that Place two great Islands full of Palm-Trees, of *Senna*, and *Coloquintida*. *Machou* the only Place inhabited between that and *Helaoue*, is in the Province of *Pungi*: It appertains to the King of *Sennar*, and is the Beginning of the Country of the *Barauras*, whom we call *Barbarins*. The *Erbab* or Governour of this Province having understood, that the Emperour of *Æthiopia* had sent for us to his Court, invited us to come to *Argos*, where he resides. This Borough is over against *Machou* on the other Side of the *Nile*; we went thither by Boat. The Governour receiv'd us with much Civility, and regal'd

us

us for two Days ; which very much refresh'd us, after the great Fatigues we had undergone. The chief Officer of the Customs, who is Son to the King of *Dongola*, has also his Residence at *Argos*. This Prince never appears in Publick, but mounted on Horseback, cover'd with two hundred little Brass Bells, which make a great Noise, and attended by twenty Musketeers, and two hundred Soldiers arm'd with Lances and Sabres: He came to visit our Tents, where they presented him with Coffee, and where they paid the Duties which consist of Soap and linnen Cloth. He did us the Honour to invite us the next Day to Dinner. We went thither at the Hour appointed. His Palace is large and built of Brick, that is bak'd in the Sun. The Walls are very high, flank'd at certain Distances with great square Towers without any Port-holes, because in that Country they have no Use of Cannon, but only Muskets.

After having pass'd eight Days at *Machou*, we left it on the Fourth of *November*, and we arriv'd on the 13th of the same Month at *Dongola* ; all the Country we met with upon

our Road up to this Town, and even as far as *Sennar*, is very pleasant, but it has not above a League in Breadth. Beyond this, there are only frightful Desarts. The *Nile* glides thro' the Middle of that delicious Plain. The Banks are high and much rais'd; so that 'tis not the Overflowing of the River which causes the Fruitfulness of this Soil, as in *Egypt*, but the Industry and Labour of the Inhabitants. Whereas it seldom Rains in this Country, they take care by the Means of certain Wheels, which are turn'd by Oxen, to pump up a Prodigious quantity of Water, which they Convey thro' the Middle of their Grounds, into large Conservatories made on purpose to Receive it; from whence they afterwards draw it as Occasion serves, to Water their Lands, which without this help wou'd otherwise be Fruitless and Barren.

Silver is of no Use in this Country in the Way of Trade; all is done by exchange of Commodities, as in the primitive Times. With Pepper, Ani-seed, Fenil, Cloves, and Chourga which is Wool dy'd blue, with Spica of *France*, Mahalab of *Egypt*, and other like

like things, Passengers buy such Provisions as they have Occasion for. They eat no other Bread than that of *Dora*, which is a small round Grain, and which they make Use of for a sort of thick Beer very ill Tasted. This being bad to keep, they are forc'd to make it Fresh, almost every Hour. A Man that has but some Bread of *Dora* and his Gourd full of this unpleasant Liqueur, which they will drink till they are intoxicated, thinks himself happy and to make good Chear. With this light Nourishment, the People here enjoy good Health, and are more robust, and stronger than the Europeans. Their Houses are of Mud, low, and cover'd with the Reeds of *Dora*. But their Horses are exactly well shap'd, and very proper for the menage. Their Saddles are very high both before and behind, which Fatigues a Horse much. Persons of Quality go bare-headed, with their Hair braided agreeable enough. Their whole Habit consists of a sort of misshapen Vest without Sleeves, they wear nothing on their Legs, nor on their Feet, except a single Sole made fast with Latchets. The common People

ple wrap themselves about with a Piece of linen Cloth, which they wear after hundred different Manners. The Children are almost naked. All the Men have Lances, which they constantly carry with them; the Iron at the End is like a Hook; there are some of them very neat. Those who wear Swords, carry them hanging on their left Arms. Oathes and Blasphemies are very common amongst those stupid People, and who likewise are so debauch'd, that they have neither Modesty, nor Civility, nor Religion: For altho' Mahometanism is what at present they make Profession of, yet they know no more than the bare Formulary of their Profession of Faith, which they repeat upon all Occasions. What is truly deplorable, and which drew Tears from the Eyes of Father *Brevedent*, my dear Companion, is, that it is not long, since this was a Christian Country, and that it has not lost the Faith, but only for want of some Person who had Zeal enough to consecrate himself to the Instruction of this abandon'd Nation. Upon our Way
we

we found a great Number of Hermitages, and Churches half ruin'd.

We made short Journeys from *Machau* to *Dongola* to recruit ourselves after those long ones we had made in passing thro' the Desarts. It was not above two Years since that Country was depopulated by the Plague. It was so violent at *Cairo* in the Year 1696 when I was there, and where I expos'd my self to the Service of the Infected, that they assur'd me that there died every Day to the Number of ten thousand. This terrible Scourge fell upon all the higher *Egypt*, and the Country of the Barbarians; so that we found several Towns, and a great Number of Villages without Inhabitants, and large Provinces at other times very fertile, quite laid waste and entirely abandon'd.

As soon as we came in Sight of the City of *Dongola*, the Captain of our Caravan left us and went to beg Permission of the King for himself and his Company to enter the Town; which was willingly granted him. We were at that time in a Village, which is as it were the Suburbs to the City, and we pass the River in a great Boat

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Boat which that Prince keeps for the Convenience of the Publick. All Merchandises pay a Duty, but the Passengers pay nothing. The City of *Dongola* is seated on the Eastern Bank of the *Nile* upon the Declivity of a dry and sandy Hill: The Houses are ill built, and the Streets half deserted, and fill'd with Heaps of Sand occasion'd by Floods from the Mountain. The Castle is in the very Center of the Town, it is large and spacious, but the Fortifications are inconsiderable. It keeps in awe the Arabians, who are Masters of the open Country, where they have Liberty to feed their Flocks paying a small Tribute to the *Mek* or King of *Dongola*. We had the Honour to eat several times with that Prince, but at a Table apart. At the first Audience he gave us, he was clad in a Vest of green Velvet which reach'd down to the Ground. He has a numerous Guard. Those who are near his Person, carry before them a long Sword in the Scabbard. The outward Guards carry Half-pikes. This Prince came to give us a visit in our Tent, and I having been Successful in some Cures I had

un-

undertaken, he invited us to Stay at his Court; but as soon as we had made known to him the Bagagements, we had with the Emperour of *Ethiopia*, he pres'd us no further. His Kingdom is Hereditary, but he pays a Tribute to the King of *Sennar*.

We departed from *Dongola*, on the 6th of *January*, of the Year 1699, and four Days after, we enter'd into the Kingdom of *Sennar*. *Erbab Ibrahim*, Brother to the Prime Minister of the King, whom we found upon the Frontier, receiv'd us with Honour, and defray'd our Expences as far as *Korti*, a Fair borough upon the *Nile*, whither he Accompany'd us, and where we Arriv'd on the 13th of *January*. Whereas the People who are beyond *Korti* upon the River *Nile*, are in Rebellion against the King of *Sennar*, and that they Pillage the *Caravans*, when they pass thro' their Country, they are forc'd to keep at a Distance, from the Banks of the River, and by Directing their Journey between the South and the West, to enter into the great Defart of *Bihouda*, which is not to be cross'd in less than five Days,

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Days, whatever Speed they make. This Defart is not so frightful as those of *Libya*, where there is nothing to be seen but Sand; in this you meet with here and there, both Grass and Trees. After having pass'd it, we again met with the *Nile* at *Derreira* a considerable Village, where we Rested two Days. This is a Plentiful Country, and Probably by Reason of the great Plenty, the Inhabitants have given it the Name of *Beladalla*, that is to say *God's Country*. We left it on the 26th, and bent our Course towards the West. There's not a Village to be found upon that Road, but the Inhabitants who live under Tents, bring in Provisions to Travel-
lers.

After some days Journey we again meet with the *Nile* near *Guerry*. 'Tis the Residence of a Governour, whose principal Employ is to Examine whether in the *Caravans* which come from *Egypt*, any one has the small Pox, because that Distemper is not less Dangerous, nor makes less Destruction in that Country than the Plague in *Europe*. That Governor show'd a particular, Civility to us in Favour of
the

the Throne of *Æthiopia*, as they express themselves, when they mention that Emperor, and he Exempted us from the Quarantain, which they usually make in that Place, where is the Passage over the *Nile*.

The Manner of passing that River is somewhat singular. They put the Men and the Goods into the same Vessel; but for Beasts, they fasten them by the Head, and under the Belly with Cords which they draw, and slaken according as the Motion of the Vessel requires. The Beasts Swim, and suffer much in the Passage, and many of them die, for altho' the *Nile* be not broad at that Place, yet it is Rapid and deep. We set out from *Guerry*, the first of *February*, and took up our Lodging at *Alfaa* a large Village built with square Stone, where the Men are tall and comely.

After having Travell'd towards the North-East, to avoid the great Windings of the *Nile*, and past thro' the Villages of *Alfon*, *Cotram* and *Camin*, and cross'd a great Island which is not taken Notice of in our Maps, we Arriv'd at the Town of *Harbagy*, where there is plenty of Provisions,
and

and where we refresh'd our selves. The following Days were spent in passing thro' the Forests of *Acaccias*, in which the high thorny Trees were Loaded with Flowers, of a yellow and blue Colour; these latter send forth a very agreeable Flavour. These Woods are Stor'd with little green Parrets; and a sort of Wood-bons, and a World of other Birds which are not known in *Europe*. These delicious Forests led us into large Plains, which are extremely Fruitful and well cultivated. After holding on our Journey for some time, we came within Sight of the City of *Sennar*, and were charm'd with its Pleasant Situation.

This City which contains near a League and a half in Compass, is very populous, but has nothing of neatness, and besides, is ill govern'd. The Number in it near a Hundred thousand Souls. It is seated West-ward of the River *Nile* upon an Eminence, at thirteen Degrees, four Minutes of Northern Latitude, according to the Observation which Father *de Brevedent* made at Noon on the 21st of March 1699. The Houses are only one Story high, and are ill Built; but the flat
Roof

Roof which covers them, is very convenient. As to the Suburbs, they are only wretched Cottages cover'd with Reeds. The King's Palace is surrounded with high Walls of Brick bak'd in the Sun, but has nothing Regular in it: You see nothing but a confus'd Heap of Buildings, without Symmetry or Beauty. The Apartments of this Palace are furnish'd richly enough with large Carpets after the manner of the *Levant*.

We were presented to the King the Day after our Arrival. The first thing was to make us put off our Shoes; this is a Point of Ceremony, which all Strangers must observe; for as to the native Subjects of that Prince, they are never to appear before him but Bare-foot. We enter'd immediately after, into a large Court pav'd with little square Tiles, of different Colours, after the manner of *Fayence*. Round about it stood the Guards arm'd with Lances. When we had almost past over the Court, they oblig'd us to stop short before a Stone, which is near to an open Hall, where the King usually gives Audience to Embassadors. There we saluted the King according
to

to the Custom of the Country, falling upon our Knees, and thrice Kissing the Ground. That Prince is Nineteen Years of Age, black, but well shap'd and of a Majestick Presence, not having thick Lips, nor flat Nose like the Rest of his Subjects. He was Seated upon a rich Bed under a Canopy, with his Legs across after the Oriental Fashion, and round him Twenty Old Men seated after the same Manner, but somewhat Lower. He was Cloath'd with a long Vest of Silk Embroider'd with Gold, and girt with a kind of Scarf made of fine Calico. He had a white Turban on his Head. The Old Men were clad much after the same Manner. At the Entrance of the Hall. the Prime Minister standing, Complimented the King in our Names, and deliver'd back his Answer to us. Then we Saluted the Prince a Second time, as we had done in the Court, and we Presented him with some Chrystals, and other Curiosities of Europe, which he graciously Accepted. He ask'd us many Questions, which discover him to be curious and of a piercing Wit. He enquir'd the Occasion of our Journey, and seem'd to

to bear a great Affection and Respect to the Emperour of *Æthiopia*. After an Hours Audience we withdrew, making three profound Reverences. He Order'd his Guards to attend us to our Lodgings, and afterwards sent us great Vessels fill'd with Butter, Hony, and other Refreshments; and moreover two Oxen and two Sheep.

This Prince Dines twice a Week, at one of his Country Houses, which is at a Leagues Distance from the Town. The Order he observes in his March is this. Between three and four hundred Horsemen mounted upon fine Horses make the first Appearance. After these comes the King attended by a great Number of Footmen, and Arm'd Souldiers, who with a Loud Voice, sing forth his Praises, and play upon the Tabor, which makes no unpleasant Harmony. Seven or Eight hundred young Maids, and Women march together with these Souldiers, and carry upon their Heads, great round Baskets of Straw, of different Colours, and finely made. These Baskets which represent all Sorts of Flowers, and the Covers whereof are Pyramid-wise, are fill'd with Copper-Dishes

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dishes Tinn'd over, and full of Fruit, and several Meats ready dress'd. These Dishes are serv'd before the King, and afterwards are distributed amongst those, who have the Honour to attend upon him. Two or three hundred Horse-men follow in the same Order as those that went foremost, and close the whole March.

The King who never appears in Publick but with his Face cover'd with a Silk-Gauze of several Colours, sits down to Table as soon as he is Arriv'd. The usual Diversion of this Prince, is to propose Prizes to the Lords of his Court, and to shoot with them at a Mark with a Gun, at which they are not as yet very Expert. After they have spent the best Part of the Day in this Exercise, they return in the Evening to the Town, observing the same Order as at their setting out in the Morning. This Entertainment is regularly taken on *Wednesday* and *Saturday* every Week. On other Days he holds a Council Morning and Evening, and applies himself to Administer Justice, to his Subjects without leaving any Crime unpunish'd. In that Country they don't seek to protract Causes.

Causes. As soon as a Criminal is seiz'd, they bring him before the Judge, who examines him, and condemns him to Die, if he be Guilty. The Sentence is executed upon the Spot; they take the Criminal and throw him upon the Ground, then with great Clubs they beat him upon the Breast till he Expires. In this Manner during our stay at *Sennar*, they treated an *Æthiopian* call'd *Joseph*, who had had the Misfortune some time before to Renounce the Christian Religion and embrac'd the *Mahometan*.

After this terrible Execution they brought me a little Turkish Girl about five or six Months Old, to be cur'd of an Infirmary. Whereas this Child was in a desperate Condition without Hopes of Life, Father *de Brevedent* Christen'd it under Pretence of applying some Remedy, and this Infant was so happy as to die after receiving Holy Baptism. In which it seem'd, that God by his wonderful Providence wou'd please to repair the loss of that Unfortunate *Æthiopian*. Father *de Brevedent* on his Part was so overwhelm'd with Joy, for having open'd Heaven to this Soul, that he assur'd me

me with a Transport not to be express'd, That altho' he had done nothing else in all his Life, he shou'd esteem himself well recompenc'd for all the Pains and Fatigues he had undergone in this Voyage.

All things are very cheap at *Sennar*. A Camel costs not above seven or eight Livers, an Ox fifty Pence, a Sheep fifteen, and a Hen a Penny. Wheaten Bread does not relish with those People, which they only make for Strangers. The Bread which they themselves eat, is that of *Dora*, which is a small Grain as I said before. 'Tis good whilst it is new, but after one Day it grows insipid and not to be eaten. 'Tis a sort of large Cake about the thickness of a Crown. The Commodities of this Country are Elephants Teeth, the Fruit call'd Tamarin, Civet, Tobacco, Gold-dust, &c. They keep a Market every Day in the wide Place in the Middle of the Town where they sell all Sorts of Provisions and Goods. They also have another before the King's Palace. 'Tis in this Market that they expose their Slaves to Sale. They sit upon the Ground with their Legs
across

across, the Men and Boys on one Side, and the Women and Girls on the other. You may have one of the strongest and most robust for ten Crowns, which makes the Egyptian Merchants buy up a great Number every Year.

The smallest Piece of Money of that Kingdom is of the Value of a French *Double*. 'Tis a little Bit of Iron of the Figure of St. *Antony's* Cross. The *Fadda* comes from Turkey, and is a small Silver Piece less than a *Denier*, it's worth a Penny. Besides these two sorts of Coin, they only make Use of Spanish *Reals* and *Piastres*, which are to be round, for the square ones are not current in Trade. A *Piastre* is about the Value of four Livers in that Country.

The Heats are so Insupportable at *Sennar*, that a Man has a Difficulty to breath in the day Time. They begin in the Month of *January*, and last to the End of *April*, they are follow'd by plentiful Rains, which continue three Months, and Infect the Air, which causes a great Mortality both amongst Men and Beast. 'Tis in some Measure the Fault of the Inhabitants,

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who

who are slovenly and who take no Care to drain away the Waters, but let them stagnate and corrupt, so as to send forth malignant Vapours.

These People are naturally crafty and deceitful, but on the other Side very superstitious, and wedded to Mahometanism. When they meet a Christian in the Streets, they never fail to recite their Profession of Faith, which consists in these Words. *There is only one God and Mahomet is his Prophet.* Brandy, Wine, and even Metheglin are forbidden them, and they only drink of them in private. Their ordinary Drink is a sort of Beer like to that of *Dongola*: They call it *Boufa*; 'tis very thick and ill-tasted. The Manner of preparing it is this. They parch the Grain *Dora* upon the Fire, then they put it into cold Water, and after four and twenty Hours drink of it. They also use Coffee, which they willingly drink. In *Ethiopia* they make no use of it.

The Women of Quality are cover'd with a silken Vest, or of very fine Calico, with large Sleeves which hang down to the Ground. Their Hair is twisted, and set out with Rings

Rings of Silver, Copper, Brass, and Ivory, or of Glass of different Colours. These Rings are fasten'd to their Locks in Form of Crowns, their Arms, Legs, Ears, and even Nostrils are cover'd with these Rings. Upon their Fingers they wear several Rings, but the Stones are not Fine. They wear nothing on their Feet but single Soles which they fasten with Strings. The Ordinary Women and Girls are only cover'd from the Waist to the Knee.

The Commodities which are carried into the Kingdom of *Sennar*, are Spices, Paper, Brass, Iron, Brass Wire, Vermillion, Sublimate, white, and yellow Arsenick, Iron-ware, Spica of *France*, Mahaleb of *Egypt* which is a Grain of a strong Scent, *Venice-ware*, which are several sorts of Glass-Beads of all Colours, and lastly Black to blacken, which they call *Kool*, and is much esteem'd in that Country, because they make use of it to blacken their Eyes and Eye-brows. All these Commodities have also good Vent in *Ethiopia*, with this Difference that at *Sennar* the large Beads of Glass are most esteem'd, and in *Ethiopia* the lesser.

The Merchants of *Sennar* have a great Trade towards the *East*. At the time of the *Mousson*, they embark at *Suaquen* upon the *Red-Sea*. The Fishing for Pearls which is perform'd in that Place and the Town of *Suaquen* belongs to the *Grand Seignior*. They pass from thence to *Moka* a Town of *Arabia Felix*, appertaining to the King of *Yemen*, from whence they proceed to *Surate*, to which Place they carry Gold, Civet, Elephants-Teeth, and bring from thence Spices and other Merchandice of the *Indies*. They commonly spend no less than two Years in making that Voyage.

When the King of *Sennar* happens to die, the great Council meets, and by a barbarous and detestable Custom orders the Throats to be cut of all the Brothers of that Prince, who is to ascend the Throne. Prince *Gorech* who lay hid untill the Death of the King his Brother, had the good Fortune to be preserv'd by his Nurse from the Cruelty of this terrible Council. They have also sav'd one of the Brothers of the present King. That Prince is at the Court of *Æthiopia*,

opia, where he distinguishes himself as well by his Merits as his Birth.

Having staid three Months at the Court of the King of *Sennar*, who had entertain'd us very honourably, we took leave of him. He had the Goodness to give us a Person to be our Safe-guard, to defray the Expences of our Journey, and to conduct us to the Frontiers of his Kingdom. We embark'd in a great Trunk of a Tree, made hollow in the Shape of a Boat; we past the *Nile* on the 12th of *May*, 1699, and encamp'd at *Basboch* a fair Village half a League from the Town of *Sennar*. There we waited three Days, till the rest of our Caravan was come up, and from thence we parted on the 15th of *May* in the Evening. We travell'd all the Night as far as *Bacras*, a large Burrough, the Lord of which was a venerable old Man a hundred and thirty Years old, and who appear'd to us as strong and vigorous as if he had not been above forty. He had serv'd five Kings of *Sennar*. We made him a Visit, and he receiv'd us very graciously, and enquir'd of us what News from *Europe*. We made him a small Present, and

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he sent us some Provisions into our Tent, in Token of his Acknowledgments. We held on our Journey and arriv'd the Day after at *Abecq* a pitiful Hamlet, where there is nothing but Shepherds Cottages, and the Day after we reach'd *Baba*, having march'd ten Hours without intermission, *Baba* is a little Village upon an Arm of the Nile which is dry'd up. On the 19th we took up our Lodging at *Dodax* a Place as inconsiderable as *Baba*; and the Day following after four Hours Journey we came to *Abra* a large Borough, where we lost two of our Camels, which we had difficulty to find again: Then we made to the Village of *Debarke*, and after that to *Bulbul*, and after having travell'd thro' a very pleasant Country and well peopled, on the 25th of May we arriv'd at *Giosim* a considerable Town on the Bank of the Nile, and in the Middle of a Forest, the Trees whereof were much different from what we had ever seen. They are higher than our tallest Oaks, and there are some so big, that nine Men at Arms length wou'd not be able to encompass them, Their Leaf is almost like to that of a Melon,

Melon, and their Fruit which is very bitter, to a Gourd. There are also round ones: I saw at *Giesim* one of those great Trees quite hollow by Nature, and without Art. They enter'd into it thro' a little Door, into a kind of Chamber open at Top, the Compass whereof was so great, that fifty Persons might easily stand up in it.

I also saw another sort of Tree, which is not thicker than one of our Oaks, but which is as high, as those I spoke of. Its Fruit is of the Figure of a Water Melon, but not altogether so big. It is divided within into little Cells, fill'd with yellow Seeds, and a certain Substance which resembles very much our Powder-Sugar. This Substance has a little Sharpness, but not disagreeable, it has a good Flavour and very refreshing, which is of great Use in a Country so hot as that is: Its Bark is hard and thick. The Blossom of this Tree has five white Leaves like a Lily, and yields a Seed not unlike to that of a Poppy.

There is also in that Country another sort of Tree call'd *Deleb*. 'Tis as high again, as the highest Palm-

trees, and almost of the same Figure ; its Leaves resemble a Fan, but broader. Its Fruit is round, and in a Bunch, and from the Stalk to the Middle of it, somewhat thicker than the Fruit I mention'd : 'Tis cover'd with five Shells which frame a sort of Cup. It is yellow when it is ripe, and its Rind is so thick and hard, that when these Trees are shaken by the Winds, these Fruit knocking against one another make a frightful Noise ; should any one loosen and fall upon a Man's Head, 'twould infallibly kill him : When one has crack'd the Shell of this Fruit, which is no easie Matter, you discover a World of little Strings which support a Substance almost like to our Honey ; this Substance which smells like Balm, is so sweet and pleasant, that I don't remember ever to have eat any thing more delicious : In the Middle of this Substance you find as it were a large dark-colour'd Pea, and very hard, which is the Seed of this Tree ; besides the Fruit I speak of, this same Tree bears another of the Figure of a Radish cover'd with three Skins ; which you are to take of, and then
it

it has the Taſt of roasted Cheſnuts.

The *Domi* is as 'twere the Male of the *Deleb*; it is not by one half ſo high as the Palm-Tree, but its Leaves are almoſt as long, and twice as broad, they make Baskets of them, Mats, and even Sails for the Veſſels of the Red Sea. This Tree produces a Fruit a Foot in length, which is cover'd with five or ſix Leaves, the Meat of which is white and ſweet like Milk, and very nourishing.

The Tree which they call *Cougles*, is alſo of a prodigious Bulk. 'Tis as it were, nine or ten great Trees bound and glu'd together after a very irregular manner. It has a ſmall Leaf, and bears no Fruit, only little blue Flowers without Scent. There are alſo in the vaſt Foreſts of that Country, ſeveral other Trees wholly unknown to the Europeans.

We reſted nineteen Days at *Gieſim*. This Place is the Mid-way between the Town of *Sennar*, and the Conſines of *Æthiopia*, and at the tenth Degree of Nothern Latitude, according to the Obſervation which Father *de Brevedent* made of it. When

you are come as far as *Giesin*, you are oblig'd to quit your Camels, by reason of the Mountains that are to be cross'd, and the Herbs which poison those Animals; and this is the Reason why in *Ethiopia* they only make use of Mules and Horses, but without shooing them. These Camels are sold at *Giesin*, upon Condition they shall be only made use of as far as *Gixana*, to which Place Folks resort to buy them. We saw at *Giesin* a Caravan of *Gebertis*. These are a Mahometan People, and depend upon the Emperour of *Ethiopia*, who treats them as Slaves, suitable to what their Name imports. The Occasion of the long Stay we made here, was the Death of the Queen, Mother to the King of *Sennar*. The Officer who conducted us return'd back to *Sennar*, to take new Orders from the King his Master, and we were oblig'd to wait for him: It was a troublesome Disappointment to us, for we were surpris'd there by the Rains: In the Beginning it only rain'd after Sunset; Thunder and Lightning always goes before the Rain. In the Day Time, the Heavens are serene, but the Heat is insupportable. We

We set out from *Giesin* on the 11th of *June*, and after five Hours we came to a Village which they call *Deleb*, by reason of the long Walks of Trees, which you see as far as your Eyes can carry. We march'd a good while thro' those delicious Allies, which are planted chequerwise. The Day following brought us to *Chau*, a Village upon the *Nile*, and the next Day to *Ahotkna*, where there is a Kind of Box-Tree, which has neither the Leaf, nor Hardness of ours. All along that Road you meet with great Forests of Tamarinds always green; the Leaf is a little larger than that of the Cypress. This Tree has little blue Blossoms, which have a pretty Smell, and a Fruit almost like a Plum; they call it *Erdeb* in this Country. These Forests of Tamarinds are so bushy, that they are impenetrable to the Sun. We past the Night after the Valley of *Sonnone*, thro' the Middle of a pleasant Meadow, and after two Days we enter'd *Serke*, a pretty Town of above five or six hundred Houses very neat, altho' built of Indian Canes. *Serke* is surrounded with Mountains in a fine Vale. You meet
with

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with a Brook at your going out of the Town, and 'tis this little Brook which separates *Ethiopia* from the Kingdom of *Sennar*.

From *Serke* which we left on the 20th of *June*, as far as *Gondar*, the Capital of *Ethiopia*, we found a World of pleasant Fountains, and almost a Chain of Mountains of different Figures, but all very delightful, and cover'd with Trees which are unknown in *Europe*, and which appear'd to us larger and higher than those of *Sennar*. These Mountains, of which some rise in Pyramids, and others in Cones, are so well cultivated, that there is no wast Ground, and on the other Side are so well peopled, that one would almost take it for one continu'd Town. We took up our Lodging the following Day at *Tambissa*, a large Village which belongs to the Patriarch of *Ethiopia*, and the next Day brought us to *Abiad*, situate upon a high Mountain cover'd with Sycamores. From *Giesim* to this Village the Fields are fill'd with Cotton. On the 23d of *June* we made a Stop in a Valley full of Ebony-Trees and Indian Canes, where a Lion carry'd

ry'd away one of our Camels. Lions are very common in this Country, and you may hear them roar all the Night. They are driven away by lighting great Fires, which they take care to keep in. There grow upon those Mountains *Squinantes*, and other aromatick Plants and Herbs.

On the 24th we pass'd the River *Gandova*, which is very deep and rapid, which makes the Passage not a little dangerous. 'Tis not altogether so broad as the *Seine* at *Paris*. It descends from the Mountains with that Violence, that at the time of its Inundation it bears all before it. The Floods are sometimes so great, that it is not to be past under ten Days. It being at that time very low, we had no Difficulty in passing. It disburdens it self into another River call'd *Tekefel*, that is to say, the *Dreadful*, and those two Rivers join'd together, empty themselves into the *Nile*. We also past two other large Rivers the Day after; they were border'd with Box-trees of a wonderful bigness, and high as our Beeches. On that Day one of our Beasts of Carriage stragling from the Caravan, was bitten on the Hip by a Bear. The
Wound

Wound was great and dangerous. The People of that Country did nothing but apply a Caustick with Fire, and the Beast was cur'd.

We enter'd on the 26th into a great Plain planted with Pomegranate-trees; we travell'd thro' it in the Night in sight of *Girana* where we arriv'd the next day. *Girana* is a Village situated on the Top of a Mountain, from whence you discover the most delicious Country in the World. 'Tis in this Place that you alter your Manner of travelling, and leave the Camels, to take Horses as I said before: The Lord of *Girana* came to make us a Visit, and order'd Refreshments to be brought us. We there found a Convoy of thirty Men, whom the Emperor had sent for our Security, and to do Honour to the Brother of the Patriarch, who was in our Caravan, and they freed us from the Care of our Baggage according to the Custom of that Empire. The Manner and Way of it is as follows.

When the Emperor of *Ethiopia* sends for any one to his Court, they recommend his Baggage to the Lord of the first Village he meets upon the Road.
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That Lord puts it into the Hands of his Vassals, who are oblig'd to carry it to the next Village. These deliver it over to the Inhabitants of the second Village, who carry it till they meet with a third, and so successively, until they come to the Capital: All this is perform'd with a wonderful Exactness and Fidelity.

The Rains, the Fatigue of our Voyage, but principally the Indisposition of *F. de Breucent* oblig'd us to stay some Days at *Girana*; however we left it on the first of July, and after three Hours March thro' Mountains, and Ways impracticable, we came to *Barangoa*, and the next Day to *Chelga*, a great and fair Town, beset on all Sides with Aloes. 'Tis a Place of great Commerce: They hold a Market there every Day, where the Inhabitants of the Neighbourhood come to vent Civet, Gold, and all Sorts of Cattle and Provisions. The King of *Sennar* has in this Town, by the Consent of the Emperor of *Æthiopia*, an Officer of the Customs, to receive all the Duties of Cotton, which they bring from his Kingdom into *Æthiopia*, and those Duties are equally divided between those
two

two Princes. About two Leagues from *Chelga* towards the North, there is to be seen a Torrent, which falls from a very high and steep Mountain, and which makes a natural Cascade, not easily imitable by Art. The Water of this Cascade dividing it self into different Canals, waters all the Country about, and renders it extremely fertile.

At length we arriv'd on the 3d of July at *Barko*, a neat little Town in the Middle of a pleasant Plain, half a Day's Journey from the Capital of *Æthiopia*. We were constrain'd to take up in that Place, by reason of my falling very ill, and because my dear Companion *F. de Breydent* found himself in a few Days reduc'd to the last Extremity by a violent Purgings, occasion'd by the Kernels of Indian Pine-Apples, call'd *Cataputtia*, which they had given him unfortunately at *Tripoli* in *Syria*. This Remedy always dangerous (according to an able Physician) had caus'd a Flux which incommoded him much, and which he conceal'd from me thro' Modesty. I had no sooner learn'd the Condition he was in, but I order'd my self to be carry'd into his Chamber, although I was at that time very
much

much out of order. My Tears more than my Words gave him to understand, that I despair'd of his Cure, and that his Illness was without Remedy. Those Tears were sincere, and if I cou'd have sav'd him at the Expence of my own Life, I shou'd have done it with Pleasure. But he was ripe for Heaven, and Almighty God thought fit to call him to the Reward of his Apostolical Labours. I had been acquainted with him at *Cairo*, where he was in so great Reputation, that he pass'd for a Man favour'd of God by extraordinary Graces, and even the Gift of Miracles and Prophecy.

I had fram'd this Idea of him upon the common Report, but was afterwards more thoroughly convinc'd of the Truth by the several Predictions he made both of his own Death, and divers other things, which happen'd to me in the Manner he foretold me. During the whole Voyage, his Discourse was altogether of God, and his Expressions were so lively, and so full of Piety, that they made deep Impressions upon me. In the last Moments of his Life, his Heart vented itself in Sentiments of
Love

Love and Gratitude towards God, so ardent and so tender, that I shall ever retain them in my Memory. It was with these Sentiments that this holy Man expir'd in a Foreign Land, within Sight of the capital City of *Ethiopia*, as *St. Francis Xavierius*, whose Name he bore, had died within Sight of *China* as he was ready to enter into it, to reduce that vast Empire to Jesus Christ.

That I may do Justice to Father *de Brevedent*, I must own that I never knew a Man more undaunted, and more courageous in Dangers, more zealous and more resolute when the Interest of Religion requir'd, more modest, and more religious in his Behaviour, and whole Conduct. He died the 9th of *July* of the Year 1699 at three a Clock in the Night. Many Religious Persons of *Ethiopia* who were present at his Death, were so mov'd, and so edified, that I doubt not but they will all their Lives conserve a great Respect for the Memory of so good a Missioner. Those Religious came the next Day in a Body, clad in their Habits of Ceremony, having each an Iron Cross in his Hand. After having

ving perform'd the Prayers for the Dead, and the usual Ceremonies of Incense, they themselves carried the Body into a Church dedicated to the *Virgin Mary*, where it was inter'd.

My Indisposition and the Grief with which I was overwhelm'd, detain'd me at *Barko* to the 21st of *July*, on which Day I set out for *Gondar*, where I arriv'd in the Evening. I lighted at the Palace, where an Apartment was prepar'd for me, near to that of one of the Emperour's Children. I had the Honour the next Day to see his Majesty, who gave me several Marks of his Goodness, and express'd a Concern for the Death of my Companion, of whom he had receiv'd a Character, both for his Merits and Capacity. He order'd me to take all the Rest that shou'd be necessary to recruit me, before I shou'd appear in publick. He came almost every Day to visit me, thro' a little Gallery which had Communication with his Apartment. When I was recover'd of the Fatigues of so long and painful a Voyage, he did me the Honour to give me a publick Audience. It was on the tenth of *August*, about ten a Clock

Clock in the Morning. They waited on me at my Chamber, and after having conducted me thro' more than Twenty Apartments, I enter'd into a Hall, where the Emperour was seated upon his Throne. It was a Sort of Couch cover'd with a Carpet of red Damask flower'd with Gold: There were round about, great Cushions wrought with Gold. This Throne of which the Feet were of Massy Silver, was plac'd at the Bottom of a Hall in an Alcove cover'd with a Dome all shining with Gold and Azure. The Emperour was cloath'd with a Vest of Silk, embroider'd with Gold, and with very long Sleeves. The Scarf with which he was girt was embroider'd after the same Manner, He was bare headed, and his Hair braided very neatly. A great Emerald glitter'd on his Forehead, and added Majesty to him. He was alone in the Alcove I mention'd, seated upon his Couch with his Legs across after the Manner of the Orientals. The great Lords were on each Side of him standing in their Ranks, having their Hands cross'd one upon the other, and observing an awful Silence.

When

When I was come to the Foot of the Throne, I made three profound Reverences to the Emperour, and kiss'd his Hand. 'Tis an Honour which he allows to none but such as he has a Mind to distinguish; for as to others he permits them not to kiss his Hands till after thrice prostrating on the Ground, and kissing his Feet. I presented to him a Letter of Monsieur *Maillet* the French Consul at *Cairo*; he caus'd it immediately to be interpreted to him, and seem'd well pleas'd with it. He ask'd me several Questions concerning the King, of whom he spoke to me as of the greatest, and most powerful Prince of *Europe*, of the State of his Royal Family; of the Greatness and Strength of *France*. As soon as I had answer'd all these Questions, I made him my Presents, which consisted of Pictures, Looking-glasses, Chrystals, and other Glass-works finely wrought. The Emperour receiv'd them in a very gracious Manner; and whereas I was yet weak not being perfectly recover'd, he order'd me to sit, and a magnificent Collation to be brought.

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The next Day he and one of his Children began their course of Physick. They both observ'd exactly the Dyet I prescrib'd, which was so Successful; that in a little Time they were perfectly cur'd. I observ'd in this Prince a great Stock of Piety, for altho' he had not finish'd the taking his Remedies, yet he wou'd not omit to communicate and appear in Publick on the Day of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, to whom the Ethiopians have a particular Devotion. He invited me to that Ceremony. I fail'd not to be at it about eight a Clock, and found about twelve thousand Men drawn up in Rank and file in the great Court of the Palace. The Emperor was upon that Occasion clad with a Vest of blue Velvete flower'd with Gold which trail'd up on the Ground, his Head was cover'd with a Muslin strip'd Gold, which fram'd a sort of a Crown after the Manner of the Ancients, and which left the Middle of his Head bare; his Shooes were wrought after the Indian Fashion with Flowers beset with Pearls. Two Princes of the Blood richly cloath'd, waited for him at the Palace

Palace Gate with a magnificent Canopy, under which the Emperour march'd with his Trumpets, Kettle-Drums, Flutes, Hautboys, and other Instruments going before him, which made a good agreeable Harmony. He was follow'd by the seven chief Ministers of the Empire, supporting each other under the Arms, and with their Heads cover'd almost like the Emperour, having each a Lance in his Hand. He that walk'd in the Middle carry'd the Imperial Crown with his Head uncover'd, and seem'd to rest it with some Difficulty against his Breast. This Crown which is clos'd with a Cross of precious Stones on the Top, is very magnificent. I march'd in the same Line with the Ministers habited after the Turkish Manner, and conducted by an Officer who held me under the Arm. The Officers of the Crown supported in the same Manner, follow'd singing the Praises of the Emperour, and answering as it were in Choires. Then came the Musketees in their close-body'd Coats of different Colours, and were follow'd by the Archers carrying their Bows and Arrows. Last of all, this Procession.

cession was clos'd by the Emperours led Horses richly harness'd, and cover'd with costly Stuffs of Gold hanging down to the Ground, over which were the Skins of Tygers extremely beautiful.

The Patriarch in his pontifical Habits wrought with Crosses of Gold, waited for him at the Entrance of the Chappel, accompany'd with near a hundred Religious Persons clad in white. They made a Lane on both Sides, and holding an Iron Cross in their Hands, some within the Chapel and some without. The Patriarch took the Emperour by the right Hand at his entring the Chapel, which is call'd *Tensa Christos*, that is to say the Church of the Resurrection, and led him up thro' the Middle of the Religious, holding each a lighted Flambeau in their Hands. They carry'd the Canopy over the Emperour's Head up to his Praying-place, which was cover'd with a rich Carpet, and is almost like to the Praying-Desks of the Prelates in *Italy*. The Emperour remain'd standing almost all the while, unto the Time of Communion, which the Patriarch gave him under both Species.

Species. The Ceremonies of the Mass are very fine and majestick, but I have not so exact a Remembrance as to give a Relation of them.

The Ceremony being ended, they discharg'd two Pieces of Canon as they had done at his Entrance, and so the Emperour withdrew, and return'd back to the Palace in the same Order he came. The Officer who carry'd the Crown deliver'd it into the Hands of the High Treasurer, who carry'd it into the Treasury accompany'd by a Band of Eustiches. The Emperour at his Return into the great Hall of his Palace, seated himself upon a Throne rais'd very high, having on each Side the two Princes his Children, and behind them the Ministers. I myself was plac'd over against the Emperour. All the Assembly continu'd standing in a profound Silence with their Hands across. After the Emperour had taken some Metheglin and some Orange-Peel which they presented him in a golden Cup, those who had Favours to beg came in, and advanc'd up to the Foot of the Throne, where one of the Ministers took their Petitions, and read
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them with a loud Voice. Sometimes the Emperour took the Pains to read them himself, and made answer to them out of Hand.

The Emperour on that Day eat in Publick, and in Ceremony. He was seated upon a kind of Bed, having a great Table before him. There were several others of a lower Size for the Lords of the Court. Beef, Mutton, and Fowl are the Meats they serve up.

They dress them almost all by way of Ragout, but they mix so much Pepper, and so many other Spices which are unknown to us, that an European cannot eat of them. He is serv'd in China Ware, and one Dish at a Time. I saw no wild Fowl, and they assur'd me, that they eat none in *Aethiopia*. I was surpris'd to see raw Beef serv'd up to the Emperour's Table; they season it after a particular manner. After having cut a Piece of Beef into Bits, they water them with the Gall of the same Animal, and then powder them with Pepper and other Spices. This Ragout, which in their Opinion is the most exquisite Dish that can be made, appear'd very nauseous to me. The
Empe-

Emperour touch'd none of it, because I had signify'd that nothing could be more noxious to his Health. They have also another manner of seasoning raw Meat in that Country. They take out of the Paunch of a Beef the Herbs which are not quite digested, they mix them with the Meat, and together with Mustard they make a Ragout call'd *Menta*, which is yet more unsavory than that I spoke of.

Whereas the Table at which I was plac'd, was near the Emperour's, he often directed his Discourse to me. There is an Officer whose Employ it is, as in *France*, to tast all the Dishes which are serv'd up to the Table. The Emperour drank first a little Brandy which was presented him in a Chrystal Glass, and afterwards only Metheglin. If he chanced to commit any Excess, they admonish him of it, and at the very Instant he rises from the Table.

'Tis a Matter of Surprise, that in a Country where there are excellent Grapes they drink nothing but Metheglin. I wonder'd at it at first, but I was given to understand, that

Wine made of Grapes does not keep by reason of the great Heats, and it being easily corrupted, the Emperour loves it no more than the People; but every Body loves Metheglin, which is made in this manner. They take Barly and malt it; after that they Parch it almost after the same manner that we do Coffee, and then reduce it to Powder. They do the same with a Root which grows in that Country, and which they call *Taddo*. They take a Vessel that is varnish'd, and to four Parts of Water they put one of Honey, which they mix together, and to the Weight of ten Pound of this Water, they put two Ounces of Malt, and two of *Taddo*, they mingle all this, they let it work three Hours in a warm Place, stirring it sometimes, and after three Days 'tis excellent Metheglin, which pure and clarify'd has the Colour of white Spanish Wine. This Liquor is very good, but it requires a better Stomach than mine. It is strong, and they draw from it a Brandy of equal Goodness with ours.

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The Empress came after Dinner to make a Visit to the Emperor. She was cover'd all over with Jewels, and magnificently cloath'd. She has a fair Complexion and majestick Port. As soon as she appear'd, all the rest of the Court retir'd out of Respect; the Emperour stopp'd me, and the Religious Man who serv'd me for Interpreter. Her Majesty consult'd me about some of her Ailments, of which she complain'd, and after that, ask'd whether the French Ladies are handsome? What sort of Cloaths they wear, and how they usually employ themselves?

The Palace is great, and spacious, and the Situation very fine. It is in the middle of the Town upon a Rising which overlooks the Country round about; 'tis almost a League in compass; the Walls are of Free-stone flank'd with Towers, upon which are rais'd great Crosses of Stone. There are four Imperial Chapels within the Inclosure of the Palace: They call them *Beit Christian*, as also the other Churches of the Empire, that is to say, Houses of the Christians. They are serv'd by a Hundred Religious Persons, who have the Care of a College,

where they teach the Officers of the Palace to read the holy Scriptures.

The Princess *Helcia*, Sister of the Emperor, has a magnificent Palace in the Town of *Gondar*. It not being permitted in *Aethiopia* to Princesses to marry Foreigners, she is married to one of the greatest Lords of the Empire. She goes thrice a Week to the Palace, to visit the Emperor her Brother, who has a great Esteem and Kindness for her. When this Princess appears in Publick, she is mounted upon a Mule richly accoutred, having on each side two of her Women, who carry a Canopy over her. Four or five hundred Women are round about her singing Verses in her Praises, and playing upon the Tabor after a brisk manner, not disagreeable. There are some Houses at *Gondar* built after the European Fashion, but the greatest part of the rest resemble a Tunnel with the Mouth downwards.

Altho' the Extent of the Town be of three or four Leagues, yet it has not the Beauty of ours, nor can it have; because the Houses are only of one Story, and have no Shops. This does not hinder, but that they have a great

a great Trade. All the Merchants meet in a wide spacious Place to treat of their Affairs; there they expose their Merchandise to Sale. The Market lasts from Morning to Night. All sorts of Commodities are sold there. Every one has his own proper Place, where he exposes upon Mats what he has to sell. Gold and Salt are the Money with which they traffick in that Countrey. The Gold is not stamp'd with the Prince's Image as in *Europe*, 'tis in Wedges, which they cut according as they have occasion, from an Ounce to half a Dram, which is the value of thirty Sols of our Money; and to the end they may not adulterate it, there are every where Goldsmiths, who make tryal of its Goodness. They make use of Rock-Salt for small Money. It is as white as Snow, and hard as a Rock. They dig it out of the Mountain *Lafin*, and carry it into the Emperour's Magazines, where they form it into Bars, which they call *Amonli*, or into half Bars, which they call *Courman*. Each Bar is a Foot in length, and three Inches in breadth and thickness. Ten of those Bars is worth three French Livres.

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They break them according to the Sum they have to pay, and they equally make use of this Salt, both for Money and Domestick Occasions.

There are about a hundred Churches in the Town of *Gondar*. The Patriarch who is the Head of the Religion, and who dwells in a fair Palaece near the Patriarchal Church, depends upon the Patriarch of *Alexandria*, by whom he is consecrated. He names all the Superiors of the Monasteries, and has an absolute Authority over the Monks, who are very numerous; for there are no other Priests in *Ethiopia*, as there is no other Bishop besides the Patriarch. The Emperour bears a great Respect to this Head of his Religion. He order'd me to make him a Visit, and caus'd some Curiosities to be given me, where-with to present him. This Prelate, whose Name is *Abona Marcos*, receiv'd me very civilly; he immediately put a Stole about my Neck, and holding in his Hand an Enamel'd Cross, he recited some Prayers over my Head, as it were in token, that for the future he wou'd look upon me as one of his Flock and of his Children. The Priests have a great Power

Power with the People, but sometimes they abuse it. The Emperour *Ati Basili*, Grandfather to this Prince, who at this time reigns so gloriously, caus'd Seven thousand of them to be thrown head-long from the Top of the Mountain *Balbau*, for having revolted against him. One may judge of their great Number through-out the Empire; by what the Predecessor of this present Patriarch one day told me; that at one Ordination alone, he had made Ten thousand Priests, and Six thousand Deacons. The whole Ceremony of their Ordination consists in this, that the Patriarch being seated, recites the beginning of St. *John's* Gospel over the Heads of those he designs to ordain, and gives them his Blessing with an iron Cross of seven or eight Pound weight, which he holds in his Hand. As to the Deacons, he does no more, than give them his Blessing without reciting the Gospel.

This present Patriarch's Predecessor, who had been Governour to the Emperour, dy'd at the time I was at *Gondar*. Altho' he had been depos'd for his Manners not altogether so regular, yet this Prince full of Gratitude for the

good Education he had given him, had always conserv'd a particular Affection for him. He fell sick at *Tanket*, a Country-house belonging to him, The Emperor order'd me to go to him, and begg'd of me, to preserve the Life of a Man, for whom he had an Affection. I staid two Days with him to examine his Sickness, and found him past Cure. This determin'd me not to apply any Remedy, that I might not lose my Credit with an ignorant Nation, which might perchance have imputed to me his Death, which happen'd two days after.

In my Return I had one of the most extraordinary Adventures of my whole Life. As I was coming back to *Gondar* upon a Mule, which is the ordinary way of travelling of the Country, the Beast took a Fright, and like a mad thing run away with me, without my being able to hold him in. I past over with an incredible Swiftnes, three very deep Precipices without any Mischief. Methought that by the particular Protection of God, I was, as it were nail'd to the Mule, which rather flew than run. *Mourat*, whom the Emperour has sent Ambassador into *France*, who
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is at present at *Caire* where he expects his Orders, and all my Servants were Witnesses of this wonderful Accident, which Father *de Brevedent* had foretold me before his Death.

The Emperor was inconsolable upon the Death of the Old Patriarch. He put on Mourning which he wore six Weeks, and for the two first Weeks bewail'd him twice every Day. The Emperors of *Ethiopia* mourn in Purple as they do in *France*.

The Horror which the *Ethiopians* have for the Mahometans, and Europeans is almost equal. The Occasion was this. The Mahometans having render'd themselves Powerful in *Ethiopia* in the Beginning of the 16th Age, made themselves Masters of the Government. The Abyssins not being able to support so hard and so odious a Yoak as that of the Mahometans, call'd in the Portuguese to their Assistance, who at that time were famous in the *Indies*, where they had newly Establish'd themselves. These new Conquerors were overjoy'd to find a free Entrance into *Ethiopia*. They march'd against the Mahometans encounter'd them, defeated them entirely

tirely, and resettled the Imperial Family upon the Throne. So important a Service render'd the Portuguese considerable at the Court of *Ethiopia*. Many of them planted themselves there, and enjoy'd the principal Employments. Their Numbers encreas'd, Corruption of Manners crept in, and they gave themselves such Liberties, that they rais'd a Jealousie in the *Ethiopians*, that they design'd to make themselves Masters of their Country and subject it to the Crown of *Portugal*. Upon this Suspicion, the People were in a Fury against the Portuguese; they took up Arms in all Places, and made a terrible Slaughter of them, at the Time they thought themselves most securely establish'd in that Empire. Those who escap'd from this first Commotion, had a Liberty allow'd to retire. There departed out of *Ethiopia* seven thousand Portuguese Families, who dispers'd themselves thro' the *Indies*, and upon the Coasts of *Africa*. Some few remain'd in the Country, and from these Families do the white *Abyssinians* descend who are amongst them, and from whence they pretend the

the present Empress, whom I mention'd before, draws her Origin.

Mahometans are tolerated at *Gondar*, but 'tis in the lower Part of the Town, and in a separate Quarter. They are call'd *Gebertis*, that is to say Slaves. The Æthiopians cannot endure to eat with them; they wou'd not eat even of Meat that is kill'd by a Mahometan, nor drink in a Cup they have made use of, unless a Religious Man shou'd bless it by reciting over it some Prayers and shou'd breath into it thrice, as it were to drive away the evil Spirit. When an Æthiopian meets a Mahometan in the Streets, he salutes him with his left Hand, which is a Mark of contempt.

The Empire of *Æthiopia* comprehends a vast Extent of Country. It consists of several Kingdoms. That of *Tigre*, the Vice-roy of which is call'd *Gaurehas*, has four and twenty Principalities under his Dependance. They are as it were so many little Governments. The Kingdom of *Agau* is one of the new Conquests of the Emperor; it was formerly a Commonwealth, which had its peculiar Laws

Laws and Government. The Emperor of *Ethiopia* has always two standing Armies, the one upon the Frontiers of the Kingdom of *Nera*, and the other upon those of the Kingdom of *Geyaw*, where the richest Gold-mines are. They carry to *Gondar*, whatever they draw from these Mines; they refine it, and work it into Wedges which they carry into the Imperial Treasury, from whence it is not produce'd, but for the Payment of the Troops, and the Expences of the Court.

The great Power of the Emperour arises from hence, that he is absolute Master of all the Wealth of his Subjects. He gives, and he takes away as he thinks fit. When the Head of a Family happens to die, he seizes upon all his Real Estate, of which he leaves two Thirds to the Children as Heirs. He disposes of the other Third to some Favourite, who by that means becomes his Vassal, and is oblig'd to serve him in time of War at his own Expences, and to furnish him with Soldiers in Proportion to the Estate he gives. Whence it comes, that this Prince who has almost an in-

infinite Number of Fendataries can in a short Time, and at a small Expence raise Powerful Armies.

Throughout all the Provinces there are certain Offices, where an exact Register is kept of all that falls to the Crown by the Death of the Possessor, and which is afterwards distributed amongst Fendataries: The Manner of the Emperor's putting them in Possession is this. He sends to the Person he has made choice of to be his Fendatary, a Head-band of Taffeta, upon which are written these Words in golden Letter, *Jesus Emperor of Ethiopia, of the Tribe of Judah who has always vanquish'd his Enemies.* The Officer himself who carries the Order of the Emperor, fastens in Ceremony the Head-band about the Head of the new Fendatary, and afterwards goes accompanied with Trumpets, and Kettle-drums, and other Instruments and attended by some Horse-men, to put him in Possession of the Estate, with which the Prince has thought fit to gratifie him.

The Ancestors of the Emperor had used to have set Days for appearing in Publick. This Prince has shak'd
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off that Servitude. He goes abroad when he thinks convenient, sometimes in Ceremony and sometimes in a more private Manner. When he appears in Ceremony, he is surrounded by a considerable Body of Cavalry, upon a Horse richly harness'd, a Guard of two thousand Men go before and follow him. Whereas the Sun is so scorching in *Æthiopia* that it fetches off the Skin from the Face, unless one take some care to prevent it, the Emperour wears upon his Head a Past-board bent Arch-wise, and cover'd with a rich Stuff of Gold, which he fastens under his Chin. This he does to avoid the Trouble of an Umbrella, and to enjoy the Benefit of the Air before and behind. His most usual Diversion is to discipline his Troops, and to exercise himself in shooting, which he does with so much dexterity, that he is esteem'd the best Marksman in his Dominions.

The Rains continue six Months in *Æthiopia*; they begin in the Month of *April*, and ceas'd not till the End of *September*. During the three first Months the Days are fair and clear, but as soon as the Sun sets, it rains
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unto Sun-rising, which is commonly accompanied with Thunder and Lightning. The World has a long while been in Search of the Cause of the overflowing of the *Nile*, which happens regularly every Year in *Egypt*. They have falsely ascrib'd it to the melting of the Snow, for I don't believe that any one has ever seen Snow in *Æthiopia*. There needs no enquiring after any other Cause than these Rains, which are in such Abundance, that it seems a Deluge of Water that falls. The Torrents at that time swell extremely, and carry Gold along with them, much more pure than that which they draw from the Mines. The Peasants pick it up with a great deal of Care.

There is no Country whatever better peopled, nor more fertile, than *Æthiopia*. All the Fields, and even the Mountains, of which there are a great Number, are well cultivated. You may see whole Plains cover'd over with Cardamom, and Ginger which has a most agreeable Scent. This Plant is here four times as big as that of the *Indies*. The Multitude of great Rivers which water
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Ethiopia, and which are always border'd with Lilies, Jonquilles, Tulips, and an Infinity of other Flowers which I never saw in *Europe*, render that Country delicious. The Forests are fill'd with Orange-trees, Citron-trees, Jessemin, Pomgranate-trees, and several other Trees loaded with Blossoms, which send forth a most fragrant Smell. Amongst the rest, there is a Tree which bears a sort of Roses much more odoriferous than ours.

I have seen in that Country a very extraordinary Animal ; 'tis not bigger than one of our Cats, it has the Face of a Man, and a white Beard ; its Voice is mournful. This Animal always keeps upon a Tree, and they assure me that there it is brought forth, and there it dies. It is so wild that it is not to be tam'd. When any one of these is taken which they have a mind to bring up, notwithstanding all their Care, it pines and dies with Melancholy. They shot one of them in my Presence, which stuck fast to a Branch of a Tree by twining its Legs about it. It died some Days after.

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As soon as the Rains are ceas'd, the Emperour is us'd to take the Field. He makes War against the Kings of *Galla* and *Changalla*, who are his most powerful Enemies. These Princes who were formerly Tributary to the Empire of the *Ethiopia*, took Occasion from the Weakness of the precedent Reigns to shake off the Yoak, and to live independent. This present Emperour has summon'd them to return to their former Obedience, and upon their Refusal has declar'd War against them: He has defeated them in several Battles, which struck such a Terror into those People, that as soon as the Army of *Ethiopia* appears in the Field, they retire to the Mountains which are almost inaccessible, where they sell their Lives dear, as often as they are attack'd. This was a most murdering War in the Beginning, and a great Number of gallant Men perish'd daily, because the Soldiers poison their Arms with the Juice of a certain Fruit which resembles very much our red Currans, so that as soon as they had the Misfortune to be wounded, their Life was irrecoverably lost. The *Ethiopians* being

being at their Wits end for the great Losses they daily sustain'd, have of late found out a sure Means to stop the Effect of so violent a Poison. They make a Plaster of their Urine, which they soften in the Sand. This Plaster apply'd to the Wound draws out the Poison with so much Success, that the sick Person finds himself cur'd in a short time.

The Emperour before he begins the Campaign, proclaims the Day of his setting out, and orders his Tents to be pitch'd in a great Plain within Sight of the City of Gondar. They are very magnificent; that in which the Emperour lodges, is of red Velvet embroder'd with Gold. Three Days after his Majesty orders his two great silver Kettle-Drums to be carry'd about the Town, then mounts on Horseback, and advances as far as Arrington, where the Rendezvous is held of the whole Army. The Emperour spends three Days in making the Review, after which he enters upon Action, which does not last above three Months. The Armies are so numerous, that I have heard it affirm'd, that the Army which the Em-

Emperour commanded in the Year 1699, was between four and five hundred Thousand strong.

The Palace of *Arringon* is not less stately than that of *Gondar*, which in the Absence of the Emperour remains in a manner desart. Four or five thousand Men are left there to guard the Crown. This Garrison is commanded by one of the principal Officers, who is to remain constantly in the Palace. My ill Health hinder'd me from following the Emperour to the Army. He return'd from thence some Days before the *Christmas* Holy Days, which he solemniz'd in his Capital City ten Days later than our Account, because the *Ethiopians*, as also the Christians of the East have not yet reform'd their Calendar. The *Epiphany* is in *Ethiopia* one of the most solemn Feasts, which they call *Gottas*, that is to say, The Day of Washing, because they bath themselves that Day in Memory of the Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Emperour goes with all his Court to *Kua*, which is a Palace not far from *Gondar*, where there is a magnificent Basin of Water which serves for that

that pious Ceremony. At the solemn Feasts, of which there is a sufficient Number in *Ethiopia*, the Emperor causes a Beef to be distributed to each Officer, which sometimes amounts to two Thousand.

We have been a long time in an Error in *Europe*, as to the Look and Complexion of the *Ethiopians*, which proceeds from confounding them with the Blacks of *Nubia* their Neighbours. The *Ethiopians* are naturally of a Dun or Olive Colour; they are tall and graceful, the Features of their Countenance comely, they have good Eyes, and their Nose and Lips not too big, and white Teeth. Whereas the Inhabitants of the Kingdom of *Sennar* or *Nubia* are Flat-Nos'd, Thick-Lip'd, with very black Faces.

The Habit of Persons of Quality is a silken Vest, or of fine Cotton Cloth, with a sort of Scarf. The Citizens are clad in the same Manner, with this difference, that they wear no Silk, and that the Cotton Cloth they make use of, is not so fine. As to the common People they have nothing but a Pair of Drawers of Cotton and a Scarf which covers the rest of their Body. The

The Manner of Salutation in *Æthiopia* is very particular: They take one anothers right Hand, and put them to their Lips. They also take the Scarf of the Person they design to salute, and wrap it about their Body, so that those who wear no Vests are half naked when they are saluted.

The Emperor calls himself Jesus: Altho' he be not above one and forty Years old, yet he has already a numerous Issue. He has eight Princes, and three Princesses. The Emperor has great Qualities; a quick and piercing Wit; a sweet and affable Humour, and the Stature of a Hero! He is the handsomest Man I have seen in *Æthiopia*. He is a Lover of curious Arts and Sciences; but his chief Passion is for War. He is brave and undaunted in Battles, and always at the Head of his Troops; he has an extraordinary Love for Justice, which he administers to his Subjects with great Exactness; but whereas he is averse to Blood, 'tis not without Reluctance that he condemns a Criminal. Such eminent Qualities make him equally fear'd and belov'd by his

his Subjects, who respect him even to Adoration. I have heard him say, that 'tis not lawful for one Christian to shed the Blood of another. Hence it comes, that he will have exact, and ample Informations, before he condemns a Criminal to Death. The Punishment of the Guilty is hanging, or losing their Head. Some are punish'd, with the Loss of their Goods with a strict Prohibition to all Persons whatsoever to Assist them, under severe Penalties, or even to give them to eat or Drink, which makes those miserable Wretches to wander about like wild Beasts. The Emperor being very Merciful, is not difficult in granting Favour to those unfortunate Creatures. 'Tis somewhat surprising that the Æthiopians being so lively and Passionate as they are, we scarce ever hear of Murder, or of those Enormous Crimes which fill us with horror. Besides Religion, I am perswaded that the exact Justice which is perform'd in that Empire, and the great Order that is kept there, contributes much to the Innocence and integrity of their Manners.

I had carried with me into *Æthiopia* a little Chest of chymical Medicines, which had cost me the Labour of six or seven Years. The Emperor inform'd himself exactly after what Manner those Remedies were prepar'd, and how they were to be applied; what Effects they produc'd; for what Distempers they were proper. He was not satisfied with only a verbal Account of these things, but he order'd it to be taken in Writing: But what I most admir'd, was that he seem'd to be extremely pleas'd with the physical Reasons I gave him of every thing. I taught him the Composition of a kind of Bezoar, which I always made use of with great Success in intermitting Fevers, as the Emperor, and two of the Princes his Sons experienc'd. He was also curious to see after what manner I extracted Essences.

Upon this Project, he sent me to *Tzamba*, a Monastery situated upon the River *Reb*, half a League from *Gondar*. The Abbot, whom the Emperor honours for his Vertue and Probity, receiv'd me with a great deal of Civility. He is a venerable old Man of Four-

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score and ten Years of Age, and one of the most learned of the Empire. There I set up my Stoves, and prepar'd all that was necessary. The Emperor came thither *Incognito*. I made several Experiments in his Presence and communicated to him many Secrets, which he was wonderfully curious to know. I think my self oblig'd to advertise all those who shall be desirous to carry Medicines into *Æthiopia*, to take no other than Chymical Preparations, because Electuaries and Syrups easily corrupt under the Line, whereas Essences and Spirits are carry'd without spoiling, and conserve themselves notwithstanding the Heat.

During the three Weeks time I staid with the Emperor at *Tzamba*, that curious Prince often discours'd me concerning Religion, and shew'd a great Desire of informing himself of our Belief, and of knowing in what we differ from the Religion of the *Copts*, which is that which is practis'd in *Æthiopia*. I endeavour'd to satisfy him as well as I cou'd; but I own'd freely, that having never study'd the more nice Points of Divinity, I had brought to him one of the ablest Men
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of *Europe*, whether for the Mathematics, or Divinity. Upon that, the Emperor gave a great Sigh, and said to me in a feeling manner; *I have had a great Loss then*, I confess my Heart was pierc'd at that Moment with the most sensible Grief, at the Reflection, that Death had depriv'd me of my dear Companion *F. de Brevedent*; for that Father who was engaging, and a Man of Parts, wou'd advantageously have made use of so favourable an Occasion, to convert that great Prince, and to instruct him thoroughly in the Belief of the Catholick Church.

One Day, as the Abbot of the Monastery, my Interpreter and I were alone with the Emperor, he press'd me to deliver my Sentiments clearly concerning the Person of Jesus Christ. I answer'd him, That we don't believe the human Nature of Jesus Christ to be lost and absorpt in the Divine Nature, as a Drop of Water is lost and absorpt in the Sea, which is the Opinion of the Copts and Æthiopians, as the Emperor own'd; but that we believe that the Word, who is the second Person of the most blessed Trinity, was truly made Man, in such man-

ner, that that Man-God, whom we call Jesus Christ, had two Natures; the Divine in Quality of the Word and Second Person of the most holy Trinity, and the Human Nature, in the which he has appear'd true Man, has truly suffer'd in his Body, and has freely and voluntarily suffer'd Death for the Salvation of all Mankind. When I had done speaking, the Emperor turn'd to the Abbot, and as much as I cou'd guess, entertain'd himself with him, upon what I had said. They did not shew any Surprise, and I am perswaded they are not averse to the Sentiments of the Catholick Church upon that Point. From that time the Abbot gave me greater Marks of his Kindness than before. During the Stay which the Emperor made at *Tzemba*, one of his most usual Diversions was, to see the Pages ride the great Horse, and perform their Exercises, at which those young Men are very expert.

From *Tzemba* to the Heads of the *Nile*, 'tis not above fixty French Leagues. I had a design to visit those famous Springs so much discours'd of in *Europe*; and the Emperor was pleas'd

pleas'd to appoint me a Troop of Horse to attend me thither by way of Convoy: But I cou'd not take the Advantage of so favourable an Occasion, being then much indispos'd with a Weakness of Breast, with which I have a long time been afflicted. I begg'd of *Mourat*, one of the Prime Ministers of the Emperor, and Uncle to the Ambassador I spoke of, to give me an Account of them. *Mourat* is a venerable old Man of a Hundred and four Years of Age, who for the Space of more than Sixty Years, has been employ'd in the most important Negotiations to the Mogul, and the rest of the Courts of the *Indies*.

The Emperor has so great a Consideration for him, that he commonly calls him *Baba Mourat*, that is to say, *Father Mourat*. Observe what this Minister, who has often been at the Heads of the *Nile*, and who has been curious in his Remarks, relates concerning them.

In the Kingdom of *Goayme* there is a very high Mountain, on the Top of which are two plentiful Springs, the one towards the East, the other towards the West. From these two

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Springs are form'd two Streams, which towards the Middle of the Mountain precipitate themselves into a spongy and boggy Ground cover'd over with Canes and Reeds. These Waters disappear, until ten or twelve Leagues off being reunited, they form the River *Nile*, which in a little time is swell'd by the Waters it receives from several other Rivers: What is particularly wonderful is that the *Nile* passes thro' the Middle of a Lake without mixing its Waters. This Lake is so great, that they call it *Bahal Dembea*, that is to say, the Sea of *Dembea*. The Country round about is very delicious. On all Sides you see nothing but large Boroughs, and fine Woods of Laurel. Its Length is of about a hundred Leagues, and its Breadth between thirty five and forty. Its Water is sweet and pleasant, and much lighter than that of the *Nile*. Towards the Middle of the Lake there is an Island where the Emperour has a Palace, which for the Beauty and Magnificence of its Buildings yields not to that of *Condar*, altho' it is not so big.

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The Emperour made a Voyage thither, and I had the Honour to attend him. He pass'd over in a little Boat row'd by three Watermen. *Mouzar* the Minister's Nephew and my self follow'd in another. These Boats which hold not above six Persons, are compos'd of Mats of Rushes join'd very neatly, and without being tarr'd or pitch'd. Altho' the Rushes of these Mats are platted very close, yet I cannot conceive how these Boats can be Proof against the Water.

We stay'd three Days in this charming Palace, where I made some Chymical Experiments, with which the Emperour was much pleas'd. This Palace has a double Inclosure of Walls, and two Churches which are serv'd by Religious that live in Community. One of these two Churches is dedicated to *St. Claude*, and gives the Name to the Island, which is call'd the Isle of *St. Claude*, and has almost a League in Compass.

One of the three Days of our being in that Place, Notice was given to the Emperour that four Rivers Hoofs appear'd upon the Lake. We had the Diversion to behold them for

half an Hour. They drove the Water before them, and darted themselves up very high. The Skin of two of those Animals was white, and of the two others red. Their Heads resembled that of a Horse, but their Ears were shorter. I could not frame a Judgment of the rest of their Bodies, having only seen them confusedly. Those River-Horses are amphibious Creatures which come out of the River to feed upon the Grass of the Banks, from whence they often carry away Goats and Sheep, which they eat. Their Skin is much esteem'd; they make Bucklers of them, which are Proof against a Musket or Lance. The Æthiopians eat the Flesh of these Animals, which must needs be unwholesome Food.

The manner of taking them is this. As soon as they discover one they follow him with Sword in Hand, and cut his Legs; not being able any longer to swim, he comes to the River Side, where he bleeds to death. The Emperour commanded a Canon to be shot against these River-Horses, but not being nimble enough in shoot-
ing.

ing the Animals div'd into the Water and disappear'd.

From the Isle of *St. Claude* the Emperour went to *Arrington*, a Place of Strength, which I have already mention'd, and I took the Road of *Emfras* which is one Days Journey from *Gondar*. The Town of *Emfras* is not so big as *Gondar*, but it is more pleasant, and in a finer Situation; the Houses themselves are better built. They are all separated one from another with Quick-Hedges always green, and cover'd with Flowers and Fruit, and mix'd with Trees planted at an equal Distance. This is the Idea you ought to frame of the greatest Part of the Towns of *Æthiopia*. The Emperour's Palace is seated upon an Eminence which commands the whole Town.

Emfras is famous for the Traffick of Slaves and Civet. They rear such a prodigious Number of those Animals, that some Merchants have to the Number of three Hundred. This is a sort of Cat, which is fed with some Difficulty; they give it thrice a Week raw Beef, and on other Days a kind of Milk-Pottage. They perfume

same this Animal from time to time with sweet Odours, and once a Week they gently scrape of an uncerious Matter, which Issues from the Body with the Sweat. 'Tis this Excrement which they call Civet from the Name of the Beast; they put it up carefully into a Beef's Horn, which they keep well stop'd.

I arriv'd at *Emfras* at the time of their Vintage, which they do not gather in Autumn as in *Europe*, but in the Month of *February*. I saw Bunches of Grapes which weigh'd eight Pound, and of which each Grape was as big as a large Nut. There are of all Colours. The white Grapes, altho' well tasted, are not esteem'd there. I ask'd the Reason, and I guess'd by their Way of Answering, that it was because the *Portuguese* are of that Colour. The Religious Persons of *Ethiopia* inspire into the People so great an Aversion to the *Europeans* who are white in Comparison of them, that they make them despise, and ever hate all that is white.

Emfras is the only Town of *Ethiopia*, where the Mahometans have publick Exercise of their Religion, and

and where their Houses are mix'd with those of the Christians.

The *Aethiopians* have only one Wife, but they cou'd wish it were allow'd them to have more, and to find something in the Gospel, which might Authorize that Opinion. At the time I was at *Fzemba* with the Emperor, he ask'd me what I thought of it; I answer'd that plurality of Wives is neither necessary for Man, nor pleasing to God, seeing God Created only one Wife for *Adam*, and that our Saviour alluded to it, when he told the Jews that *Moses* had not permitted plurality of Wives, only for the hardness of their Heart, but from the beginning that it had not been so. The Religious of *Aethiopia* are very severe against those who have several Wives, but the Lay-judges are much more Indulgent.

The *Aethiopians* make profession of Christianity; they admit the Scripture and the Sacraments; they believe the Transubstantiation of the Bread and the Wine into the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; they invoke the Saints; they Communicate under both Species and Consecrate

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crate with leaven'd bread like the Greeks; they observe four Lents as the Orientals; the great Lent, which lasts fifty Days, that of *St. Peter* and *St. Paul* which continues forty Days and sometimes less, according as the Feast of Easter is more or less advanc'd; that of the Assumption of our Lady which is of fifteen Days; and that of Advent which lasts three Weeks. In all these Lents they Abstain from Eggs, Butter, and Cheese, and they do not eat till after Sun-set; but after that, they may eat and drink till Midnight. There being no Olive-Trees in *Æthiopia*, they are forc'd to make Use of an Oil, which they draw from a certain Grain of the Country, which is not unpleasant to the Taste. They Fast likewise with the same rigour all the Wednesdays and Fridays of the Year. Prayer always goes before the Repast. The Peasants leave their Work to go to Prayer, not Offering to eat until they have acquitted themselves of that Duty. They dispense with no Body from Fasting; the Old, and the Young, and even sick Persons are all oblig'd to its observance. They usually admit
Children

Children to Communion at ten Years Old, and from the Time of their Communion they oblige them to fast.

The Confession of their Sins is very imperfect; the manner of doing it is this. They prostrate themselves at the Feet of a Priest who is seated, and then they accuse themselves in general of being great Sinners, and having meritted Hell, without descending to the particular Sins they have committed. After this Declaration, the Priest holding in his left Hand the Book of the Gospels, and a Cross in his right, touches with the Cross the Eyes, the Ears, the Nose, the Mouth, and the Hands of the Penitent, reciting some Prayers over him; after that he reads the Gospel, makes several Signs of the Cross over him, gives him a Penance, and so dismisses him.

The *Æthiopians* have much more Modesty and Respect in their Churches than they commonly have in *Europe*; they don't enter into them but with bare Feet; 'tis for this Reason the Pavement is cover'd with Carpets: You never hear them speak a Word,
nor

nor blow their Nose, nor turn their Head on one Side. When they go to Church they must always have clean Linen, otherwise they would refuse Entrance to those that should present themselves. When they give the Communion every one retires, and no Body remains in the Church but the Priest and the Communicants. I know not whether or no they practise this thro' a Sense of Humility, as believing themselves unworthy to partake of the Divine Mysteries.

Their Churches are very neat, they make use of Pictures and Painting; but you never see any Statues or carv'd Images. However the Emperour was pleas'd to accept of a Crucifix of superb Work, which I had the Honour to present to him, with some other Pictures in Miniature. He kiss'd them with Respect, and order'd them to be carry'd into his Closet. Those Miniatures were the Pictures of Saints, whose Names he order'd to be written at the Bottom in the *Ethiopian* Language. Upon this Occasion he told me we were all of the same Religion, and only differed in certain Rites. They offer Incense almost continually

usually during the Mass and the Offices: Altho' their Books have no Musical Notes, yet their Singing is true and agreeable; they mix with it the Sound of Instruments. The Religious rise twice in the Night to sing Psalms. Out of the Church their Habit is almost Secular; they are only distinguish'd by a yellow or blue Calot which they wear upon their Heads. Those different Colours distinguish their Orders: They are much reverenc'd in *Ethiopia*.

The *Ethiopians* have retain'd the Jewish Circumcision. They circumcise the Child the Seventh Day after its Birth, and afterwards baptize it, unless there be Danger of Death, for in that Case they wou'd not defer Baptism. Circumcision does not pass amongst them for a Sacrament, but a pure Ceremony which they practise in Imitation of Jesus Christ, who vouchsafed to be circumcis'd. They assur'd me that former Popes had tolerated this Use of Circumcision in *Ethiopia*, declaring to them that they were to believe that Circumcision is not necessary for Salvation.

I cou'd add many other curious things in relation to *Æthiopia*, but not being perfectly inform'd, and being unwilling to advance any thing which I have not either seen my self, or learn'd from unquestionable Witnesses, I shall forbear making any further Remarks.

Finding daily a Decay of my Health by continual Relapses, I took a Resolution to return into *France*, and to beg Leave of the Emperor to depart. He express'd a true Concern at my Intimation of it; he renew'd his Orders to treat me well, fearing that I was dissatisfy'd; he offer'd me Houses and Lands, and even a very considerable Settlement: But whatever Inclinations I had to serve so amiable a Prince, and endow'd with so great Qualities; I represented to him, that from the time I had that severe Sickness at *Barko*, which had like to have carry'd me off, I had never been able to set my self up again, notwithstanding all the Remedies and Precautions I had taken; that it was impossible for me to recover my Health without changing the Climate, and breathing my own native Air; that it was the greatest Affliction to me
imagina-

imaginable, to be separated from so great a Prince, but that I should infallibly die, in case I shou'd wilfully continue in his Dominions. The Emperor full of Goodness agreed, tho' with Difficulty, to my pressing Solicitation; but it was upon this Condition, that as soon as I shou'd be recover'd, I wou'd return into *Æthiopia*; and that he might engage me by all that is most Sacred, he made me swear upon the holy Gospel, that I wou'd not fail in the Promise I had given, and that I wou'd observe it inviolably.

The Esteem he had conceiv'd for the King, upon what I had related, and upon what he had learn'd from other Hands, mov'd him to desire an Alliance with a Prince, whose Reputation made so great a Noise in the World, and to send an Ambassador to him with Letters and Presents. He cast his Eyes immediately upon an Abbot whose Name was *Abona Gregorius*, and to that Intent, he order'd me to teach him the Latin Tongue. This Religious Man having a great deal of Wit, and being perfect both in speaking and writing Arabick, made a very considerable

rable Progress in a little time ; but because in *Æthiopia* they more willingly make use of Strangers, than People of their own Country for Embassies, it was no difficult matter for the Minister *Mourat*, to procure his Nephew to be nam'd Ambassador for *France*. The Emperor declar'd him publicly, and order'd him to prepare his Presents, which consisted in Elephants, Horses, and young Æthiopian Children, &c.

Being at an Audience with the Emperor, before he was resolv'd upon his Choice of an Ambassador, he call'd for the young Princes his Children, and directing his Discourse to one of the Youngest, about eight or nine Years old, told him he had a mind to send him into *France*, the finest Country in the World. The young Prince answer'd him very wittily, that it won'd be the greatest Concern in the World to him, to be separated from his Father, but that if it were his Pleasure he shou'd make that Voyage, he wou'd undertake it with Joy. Then the Emperor turning to me, ask'd me after what manner they won'd treat his Son at the Court of *France*. I answer'd

swear'd, they wou'd treat him with all the Honours due to the greatest and most powerful Prince of *Africk*. He is as yet too young, reply'd the Emperour, and the Voyage is too long and difficult, when he is grown stronger, and has more Years over his Head, he may undertake it.

My Departure being fix'd, the Emperour gave me an Audience of Leave with the usual Ceremonies. When I was in his Presence, the grand Treasurer brought me a Bracelet of Gold, which the Emperour graciously put about my Wrist with Sound of Kettle-Drum and Trumpets. This Honour in *Aethiopia* answers to that of the Princes of *Europe*, when they bestow their Orders of Knighthood. He after that, gave me the Mantle of Ceremony, and it being Dinner Time, did me the Honour to keep me and make me eat at a Table near his own, but which was lower. After Dinner I took Leave of the Emperour, who order'd the high Treasurer to furnish me with whatever I shou'd demand.

My

My Departure was resolv'd on for the Second of *May*, of the Year 1700. They gave me an Officer with a Guard of a hundred Horse, to conduct me as far as the Confines of the Empire, and an Interpreter who knew the Languages of all the Provinces thro' which we were to pass ; for every Province has it particular Language ; several Merchants who were going to *Messua*, join'd themselves to me, and were glad to have the Advantage of this Occasion to perform their Voyage with more Security. Altho' the Ambassadour *Mourat* press'd my Departure for fear of the Rains which already began to fall in the Nights, he cou'd not begin his Journey so soon, because the Emperour stopt him. We appointed to meet at *Duvarna*, to continue our Journey together from thence. I cou'd not leave the Emperour (who shew'd me a thousand Kindnesses) without a tender Concern, and he himself appear'd to be sensibly touch'd at this Separation. I must own that I can never think upon that great Prince without the most lively Sentiments of Gratitude, and had it not been for
for

for my Indisposition, I shou'd have devoted my self to his Person, and sacrific'd the Remainder of my Days to his Service. The Principal Lords of the Court did me the Honour to accompany me two Leagues according to the Orders they had received.

We took our Journey by the Town of *Emfras*, of which I have already spoken. The Officer who Conducted us, always got an Hour before us, into the places where we were to Lodge. He alighted at the Governours House or at the principal Persons of the Village, and shew'd him the Orders of the Court written in a Roll of Parchment. This Roll is put into a little Gourd, which he fastens to his Neck with silken Strings. As soon as he Arrives, the Chief of the Town or Place meet together before the Governour's Gate, where in their Presence he unties his Gourd, and takes out of it the little Roll of Parchment, which in the Language of the Country is call'd *Ati Heses*, that is to say the Command of the Emperor ; he presents it with a great deal of Respect to the Governour, telling him that if
he

he does not execute it, his Head must answer for it. When any Order is upon pain of Death, 'tis written in red Letters. The Governour to testify his Respect and Obedience, takes it, and puts it upon his Head; after that, he gives his Orders to defray the Expences of the Officer, and his Company thro' all the Places of his Government.

We made it a Days Journey between *Gondar* and *Emfras*, being oblig'd to pass over a high Mountain by very difficult Ways. Upon that Mountain there is a fair Monastery with a Church dedicated to *St. Ann*. This Place is very Famous, and they make Pilgrimages to it from a far. In this Monastery there is to be seen a very clear and cool Fountain; the Pilgrims drink of it out of Devotion; they pretend that it works miraculous Cures by the Intercession of *St. Ann*, to whom the Æthiopians are much devoted.

We Arriv'd at *Emfras* on the Third of *May*, and were lodg'd in a fair House belonging to *Mourat* the Elder. I was regal'd there for three Days. I was Entertain'd with Consorts of the Harp, and a kind of Violin, which

which comes very near our own. I was present at a sort of Show: The Actors sing Verses to the Honour of him, whom they design to divert, and shew a thousand Tricks of Activity. Some of them dance Jigs to the Sound of little Cymbrels, and being Nimble and Active make several extravagant Postures in their Dancing. Others holding a Naked Sabre in one Hand, and a Buckler in the other, Represent a Battle dancing, and cut such surprising Capers, that one won'd not believe it, without seeing. One of those Caperers brought me a Ring, and bid me either hide it my self, or give it to some other to hide, and that he would soon tell me where it was. I took it, and hid it so well, that I thought it impossible to Guess where I had put it. A Moment after, I was much surpris'd, to see this Man come dancing to me keeping Time all the while, and whisper me in the Ear that he had the Ring, and that I had not hid it well. Again, there are others who hold a Lance in one Hand, and a glass of Metheglin in another, and leap Prodigiously high without spilling one Drop.

They

They desir'd me to Visit a Person of Quality that was sick. One of the Standers by said to me in my Ear *Mich*, that is to say, he is struck by the Evil Spirit. At the Time I was at *Gondar*, I heard them often speak of that Illness, and the Emperour himself, more than once ask'd my Opinion concerning it. I answer'd, that God did not permit those Obsessions, but either to Punish our Sins, or to discover his Power.

From *Emfras* we advanc'd to *Coga*, where we took up our Lodging. This Place was formerly the Residence of the Emperors of *Æthiopia*. The Town is little, but the Situation very delightful, and the Country round about very pleasant. I took up my Quarters with the Governour of the Province, who receiv'd me very honorably, as also did the other Governours and Heads of the Villages with whom I lodg'd thro' all my Journey. 'Twas at *Coga* where they first began to recommend our Baggage to the Lords of the Villages, who order'd it to be carried as far as the Frontiers, after the Manner I have already related. I have not exactly noted
down

down the Places thro' which we pass'd. The great Weakness I then lay under, not permitting me to write as I cou'd have wish'd.

We spent seven or eight Days in passing thro' the Provinces of *Ogara*, where the Heats are not so excessive as elsewhere, by Reason of the many high Mountains. I was told they had Ice there at certain times of the Year, but I dare not engage for the Truth of it. Amongst those Mountains there are Houses which are made in the very Rock; they shew'd me a Place where some young People seeking a private Place to be merry in, were all petrified. Those who related this Passage to me, affirm'd that those young Libertins are still to be seen in the same Postures they were in, when they were turn'd into Stone. I believe those Figures are only Congelations, in which Nature sports herself sometimes. There are amongst those Mountains so great a Number of Houses, that they seem to be one continu'd Town. They are built round; the Roof, the Figure of which resembles a Tunnel turn'd downwards,

is of Rushes, and supported by Walls which rise ten or twelve Foot from the Ground. The Inside of the Houses are neat, and adorn'd with Indian Canes rang'd artificially. Markets are to be found every where, where they sell all sorts of Provisions and Cattle; the Country swarms with People.

Out of the Province of *Ogara*, we enter'd into that of *Siry*, where they begin to speak the Language of *Tigra*. Before we came to *Siry* the Capital of that Province, we pass'd over the River *Tekefel*, which is to say, the *Terrible*; that is the Name they give it by Reason of its rapid Stream. 'Tis four Times broader than the *Seine* at *Paris*; they pass over it in Boats, there being no Bridge. This Province is the most pleasant, and most fertile Country I have seen in *Æthiopia*. You meet there with delicious Plains water'd with Fountains, and fill'd with spacious Forests of Orange-Trees, Citron-Trees, Jessamins, and Pomegranate-Trees. Those Trees are so common in *Æthiopia*, that they grow without any Care or Cultivating:

ting : The Meadows and Fields are cover'd with Tulips, Renunculus's, Pinks, Lilies, Rose-Trees loaded with red and white Roses, and a thousand other sorts of Flowers unknown to us, and which perfume the Air with a much stronger and more fragrant Scent than in those pleasant Places which are to be seen in *Provence*. The Officer who conducted me, has in that Province a very handsome Castle, where he rega'd me eight Days. I began in that Place to observe, that the Swelling I had at the Orifice of my Stomach, grew less, and that Exercise and the Country Air gave me an Appetite, and wrought a very good Effect upon me. I receiv'd in this Castle the Visit with which the Governour of the Province honour'd me by the Emperour's Appointment. He commanded a young Elephant to be brought, which the Ambassador was to carry into *France*, and present to the King. The Orders which were put into little Gourds were to that Effect.

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From



From the Province of *Siry* we pass'd into that of *Adova*, the Capital whereof bears the same Name. The Governour of this Province is one of the seven prime Ministers of the Empire. The Emperour has marry'd one of his Daughters to a Son of this Governour, who has four and twenty little Governments and Principalities under his Jurisdiction. As soon as we were arriv'd at his Capital City, he order'd a magnificent Tent to be set up in his Palace for my Reception; he lodg'd me in a very fine Apartment, and regal'd me the Space of sixteen Days that I staid with him, with a Magnificence worthy of his Rank and Quality. It was he who had Orders to furnish me plentifully with all that I should want for my embarking upon the Red Sea, and he did it in the most obliging manner in the World. I was treated by Way of Regale with wild Beef, which is much esteem'd by the Æthiopians, the Flesh is very good, and very tender. Those Beefs have no Horns, and are not so large as ours in *France*.

There

There are also a great Number of Roe-Bucks in this Province, but I saw there neither Hinds nor Stags. After having return'd Thanks to that Lord, who overwhelm'd us with Civilities, we continu'd to pursue our Route. We pass'd thro' a Forest full of Apes of all Sizes, which skip'd upon the Trees with an amazing Swift-ness, and which diverted us with a thousand Tricks they play'd. After that we enter'd into the Province of *Saravi*, where I had the Misfortune to see the young Elephant die, of which I had taken the Charge.

In this Province are the best Horses of *Æthiopia*, and from whence the Emperour's Stables are furnish'd; from hence the Embassadour was to take the Horses he was to carry with him into *France*. Those Horses which are full of Fire, and are as big as those of *Arabia*, are always high Crested. They have no Shooes, because in *Æthiopia* they know not what it is to Shooe Horses, or other Beasts of Burden.

From *Saravi* we at length arriv'd at *Duvarna* the Capital of the Kingdom of *Tigra*. There are two Governours in this Province. I know nothing of the Reason, nor which are there several Divisions. They call them *Barnagas*, as much as to say, *Kings of the Sea*, probably because they border upon the Red Sea.

Duvarna is divided into two Towns, the Higher, and the Lower. The Mahometans inhabit the Lower. Whatever comes into *Æthiopia* by the Red Sea, passes thro' *Duvarna*. This Town which is about two Leagues in Circuit, is as it were the *Bureau*, or general Magazine of the Commodities of the *Indies*. All the Houses are built with square Stone, and the Roofs are flat. The River *Moraba* which passes at the Foot of this Town, disburthens it self into the *Tekesel*. It is not broad, but very rapid, and not to be pass'd without some Danger. We spent no less than two Months and a Half between *Gondar* and this Town, where I was to wait for the Coming of *Mourat*.

Soon

Soon after my Arrival, the two Governours receiv'd the doleful News of the Death of Prince *Basil*, Eldest Son of the Emperour, and presumptive Heir to the Empire. This Prince who dy'd between nineteen and twenty Years old, had all the Qualifications that can render a Prince accomplish'd: Besides that he had a very graceful Person, he had Wit, Courage, Worth, and a generous and liberal Heart, all which made him the Delight of the whole Court. A malignant Fever carry'd him off within eight Days after his Return from a Campaign he had been making with the Emperour his Father against the *Galla's*, where he had signaliz'd himself, for he had beat and pursu'd his Enemies so briskly, that he had kill'd eight with his own Hand. This Prince had a tender Love for the People, to whom he wou'd have been a Father had he liv'd. He gave Demonstrations of this a little before his Death. The Emperour going to visit him, attended by the greatest Lords of his Court, the Prince told him he had only one Favour to beg of him, which was,

F 4

that

that he wou'd ease his People, which was oppress'd and drain'd by the insatiable Avarice of the Ministers and Governours. These Words made such an Impression upon the Emperor, that he cou'd not forbear weeping, promising him that he wou'd take care to remedy it. I learn'd this Circumstance from him that brought the News of his Death to *Duvarna*, with Orders to pray for the deceas'd Prince, and to bewail him according to Custom. What they relate concerning his Vertues, is worthy of eternal Memory. The Emperor his Father, being one day fal'n into an Ambuscade of the Enemies, the young Prince ran with full Speed to his Assistance. He pierc'd into the thickest Crowd, charg'd so warmly on all Sides, and did Actions of so great Valour, that he sav'd his Father's Life at the Hazard of his own.

The Emperor whether thro' Policy, or by Way of Diversion disguises himself sometimes, and keeps out of Sight with two or three of his Confidants; without any ones knowing what is become of him. It happen'd once that
he

he absented himself for two Months, which made the Prince his Son highly uneasy, and gave him terrible Apprehensions, because it was believ'd that the Emperor was dead.

Some of the most considerable Lords of the Court, who desir'd to advance themselves by flattering the Ambition of the young Prince, propos'd to him to take the Government into his Hands, and to order himself to be proclaim'd Emperor ; because there was Danger, lest in the present Conjunction one of his Brothers might prevent him, and raise an Insurrection in some of the Provinces ; that he might rely upon their Fidelity, and that they were ready to sacrifice their Lives and Fortunes in his Service.

The Prince who had a tender Love and an inviolable Attach to his Father, rejected with Indignation the Proposal of these self-interested Courtiers, and declar'd that he wou'd never mount the Throne, before he had seen the Corps of his Father, and was assur'd of his Death. The Emperor return'd some Days after, and was

inform'd by some loyal Courtier, of the pernicious Counſel that had been given to his Son. He being extremely wiſe, and reſerv'd, made no Noiſe of it, but thoſe Flatterers ſoon diſappear'd, without having been ſeen ever ſince. The Preſumptive Heir of the Crown has a Principality annex'd to his Perſon.

I paſt by this Principality in my Journey to *Duvarna*. The Town is call'd *Heleni* : It has a fair Monastery, and a magnificent Church. 'Tis the faireſt and largeſt I have ſeen in *Æthiopia*. It is dedicated to St. *Helena*, and from that Church in all likelihood the Town has taken the Name of *Heleni*. In the middle of the ſpacious Place before the Church, are to be ſeen three pyramidical, and triangular Spires, all fill'd with Hieroglyphicks. Amongſt the Figures of theſe Pyramids, I obſerv'd upon each Face a Lock, which is very ſingular, for the Æthiopians have no Locks, and are even unacquainted with the Uſe of them. Altho' you ſee no Pedeaſtals, yet theſe Spires are no leſs high than the Obeliſk of the Palace before St. *Peter's* at *Rome*,

Rome, plac'd upon its Pedestal. 'Tis believ'd that this was the Country of the Queen of *Saba*: Several Villages depending upon this Principality, which to this Day bear the Name of *Sabaim*. They get Marble in the Mountains, which no ways yields to that of *Europe*; but what is more considerable is, that they also find a great deal of Gold, even in tilling their Ground. They brought me privately some Pieces, which I found to be very fine. The Religious of that Church are habited in yellow Skins, and wear a little Cap of the same Colour and Skin.

After the Arrival of the Courier, who was the Messenger of the sad News of Prince *Basil's* Death; the *Barnagas* order'd it to be made publick with Sound of Trumpet, thro' all the Towns of their Government. Every one put on Mourning, which consists in shaving their Heads; this is the Practice thro' the whole Empire, not only for Men, but also Women and Children. The Day following, the two Governours attended by all the Militia, and an infinite Number of People, went to the Church dedicated
to

to the blessed Virgin, where they perform'd a solemn Service for the Prince, after which they return'd to the Palace in the same Order. The two *Barnagas* seated themselves in a great Hall, and plac'd me in the Middle between 'em. After that, the Officers and Persons of Note, both Men and Women, rang'd themselves round the Hall. Certain Women with Taborers, and Men without, plac'd themselves in the Middle of the Hall, and began to sing, as it were in Parts, little Songs in honour of the Prince; but in so doleful a Tone, that I cou'd not hinder being seiz'd with Grief, and Weeping for a whole Hour that the Ceremony lasted. There were some who to testify their Sorrow, tore their Faces, till they were cover'd with Blood; or burnt their Temples with little WaxCandles. There were none in this Hall but Persons of Quality, the common People stood without in the Courts, where they gave such lamentable Cries, that it wou'd have mov'd the hardest Hearts. These Ceremonies lasted three Days according to Custom.

It is to be observ'd, that when any Æthiopian dies, you hear on all Sides
most

most doleful Howlings. All the Neighbours assemble in the House of the Person deceas'd, and join in their Bewailings with the Kindred they find there. They wash the Corps with particular Ceremonies, and after having wrapt it up in a new Winding-Sheet of Cotton, they place it in a Coffin in the middle of the Hall with Flambeau's of Wax. Then they redouble their Weeping and Crying to the Sound of little Tabors. Some pray to God for the Soul of the Deceas'd, others recite Verses to his Praise, or tear their Hair, and scratch their Faces, or burn their Flesh with Flambeau's in Token of their Grief. This Ceremony, which is both frightful and moving, continues until the Religious come to take away the Body. After having sung some Psalms, and made use of Incense, they begin their Procession, holding an iron Cross in their right Hands, and a Prayer-Book in the left. They themselves carry the Body, and sing Psalms all the Way. The Relations and Friends of the Deceas'd follow, and continue their Cries with drumming on the Tabors. They all have their Heads shav'd, which is the

the Badge of Mourning, as I said before. When they pass by any Church, the Procession stops, and some Prayers are said there ; after which they go on to the Place of Burial. There they renew again their Oblations of Incense, they sing a while the Psalms with a mournful Note, and put the Body into the Ground. Persons of Fashion are buried in the Churches, the rest in common Church-yards, where they plant a Number of Crosses, not unlike to what is practis'd by the Carthusian Fathers. The Company returns back to the House of the Deceas'd, where they make a Feast. They meet together for three Days, Night and Morning to bewail, and eat no where-else during that time. After three Days they separate until the eighth Day after the Decease, and so continue to meet every eighth Day to mourn for two Hours, for the Space of a whole Year, to the Anniversary-Day.

When a Prince or some Person of eminent Quality dies the Emperor for three Months withdraws himself from Business unless it be very pressing. Whereas he was desirous of sending an
 Embassa-

Embassador into *France*, he sent for *Mourat*, gave him his Orders and Credentials to the King, and having cloathed him with a Mantle of Ceremony in a publick Audience, commanded him to depart. His Voyage was unfortunate; the Horses which he was to present to the King died in the Way; *Mourat* sent back to Court to be furnish'd with others. This Accident retarded his Journey, and made me take the Resolution to go and wait for him at *Messua*, there to give Orders for our embarking. The Day before my Departure, the *Barnagas* having sent back the Troops, which had conducted me to *Duvarna*, appointed a hundred Foot Soldiers with an Officer on Horse-back, to command them to be in a Readiness to march the next Day to convoy me to *Messua*. I sent back Part of my Domesticks, only keeping thirty. I left *Duvarna* on the eighth of *Septemb.* of the Year 1700, and with much Difficulty and Danger I pass'd over a very rapid River call'd *Moraba*.

From

From *Duvarna*, the Lords of the Villages don't order the Baggage to be carried by their Vassals, but make use of a kind of Oxen, which they call *Bers*, and are of a different Species from those called *Frida* which are the ordinary Oxen. Those Animals, the Flesh whereof is not good to eat, rid a great deal of Ground in a short time. I had twenty of them for my Use, of which one Part carried the great Provisions for our Vessel, and the other our Tents; because after the Rains had ceas'd, we lay every Night in the Fields.

The Inhabitants of that Country, who are partly Mahometans and partly Christians, bring in Victuals and Provisions to the Caravans that pass. I was informed that about a Days Journey out of our Road, there was a very extraordinary thing to be seen in one of the most famous Monasteries of the Country. I was curious to examine the Truth of it in Person. I left the high Way and took with me twenty Lance-men and the Officer for greater Security of this little Excursion. We spent half a Day in climbing

ing a very difficult Mountain, all covered with Wood. When we were come to the Top of it, we found a Cross, and the Monastery we search'd for.

This Monastery is in the Middle of a Forest, in a frightful Solitude. It is well built, and has a wide extended Prospect; you discover from thence the Red-Sea and a vast Country. There are a hundred Religions in this House, who lead a very austere Life, and who are habited in the same Manner as those of *Heleni*. Their Cells are so little, that a Man can scarce stretch himself in one of them. They eat no Flesh, no more than the other Religious of *Æthiopia*. They are constantly intent upon God, and the Meditation of holy things; this is their whole Employment. I saw there an old Man of about sixty six Years of Age, who for seven Years had only liv'd upon the Leaves of wild Olive-trees. This extraordinary Mortification had occasioned his spitting Blood, which incommoded him very much. I gave him some Remedies, and prescrib'd him a Diet not altogether so rigorous. He was
a very

' shou'd find a Staff of Gold hanging
 ' in the Air : Having found and seen
 ' the Miracle of which you are Witness,
 ' said he who address'd his Discourse
 ' to me, *Abona Philippos* doubted no
 ' longer of the will of God. He obey'd.
 ' and built this Monastery, to which
 ' they have given the Name of *Bihen*
 ' *Jesus*, that is to say the *Vision of Jesus*,
 ' by Reason of the Apparition. I leave
 ' to the Reader, to make what Re-
 ' flexions he pleases, upon the Prodigy
 ' I have seen, and upon what those
 ' Religious report concerning it.

The next Day having taken leave of
 the Abbot and the Religious, who
 did me the Honour to accompany
 me a good Part of the Way, I went
 to rejoin the Caravan I had left, and
 so continu'd my Journey. I saw no-
 thing in the rest of my Route, which
 deserves any particular Remark ;
 Eight Days after we had left *Duvarna*,
 we Arriv'd at *Arcouva*, a little Town
 on the Bank of the Red Sea, which
 the Geographers miscall *Arequies*. We
 only staid one Night. The Day fol-
 lowing, we cross'd an Arm of the Sea
 in a Boat, and Landed at *Massoua* a
 little

little Island, or rather a barren Rock, upon which is Built a Fortrefs which belongs to the Grand Signior, and is the Residence of a *Bacha*.

This Fortrefs is of small Strength, and a single Man of War well mann'd wou'd easily make it self Master of it. Whilst I was there, an English Vessel came to an Anchor in the Road, which cast a Terror into the whole Island. They were preparing for their Defence, when the Master of the Vessel sent his Long Boat ashore to assure the Governour he had no Cause to stand in Fear of the English, who were in Alliance with the Grand Signior. The *Bacha* of *Messoua* gives a Governour to *Suaquen*, a Town depending upon the *Ottoman* Empire, situated upon a Bank of the Red Sea. In this Place is the Pearl-Fishing, and for Tortoises of which there is a great Traffick, and from whence the Grand Signior draws a considerable Revenue. The *Bacha* of *Messoua* receiv'd me with much Civility at the Recommendation of the Emperour of *Æthiopia*, whom they stand in great Fear of in that Country, and with Reason; for the
Æthiopians

Æthiopians cou'd easily make themselves Masters of the Place, which formerly belong'd to them, by starving them or refusing to furnish them with Water, the Inhabitants of *Messoua* being oblig'd to fetch it from *Arconva*, there being none in their Island.

At the Time I was at the Court of *Æthiopia*, I was inform'd that the *Hollanders* had attempted more than once to engage in Commerce with the *Æthiopians*, but whether it be Difference in Religion, or whether it be the great Power of the *Hollanders* in the *East-Indies*, that gives them a Jealousy, 'tis certain the *Æthiopians* wou'd never enter into any League with them.

The *English* are also desirous of making Alliance with the *Æthiopians*, and to my Knowledge an *Armenian Merchant* did associate himself to the *English* in hopes to trade thither, which wou'd be of great Advantage to them: For besides Gold, Civer, Elephants Teeth, &c. they wou'd bring from thence Aloes, Myrrh, Cassia, Tamarinds, and Coffee, which the *Æthiopians* do not esteem much,
and

and which, as I have been told, was first transported out of *Æthiopia* into *Hiemen*, or *Arabia Felix*, from whence the Merchants now a Days bring it, for at present they cultivate it in *Æthiopia* only as a Curiosity.

The Coffee-Plant resembles very much the Myrtle, its Leaves are always green, but larger, and more tufted ; it bears a Fruit like the Pistacho-Nut, and on the Top a Husk, in which are contain'd two Beans, and this is what they call Coffee. This Husk is green at the Beginning, but as it grows more ripe becomes of a darker Colour. 'Tis a Mistake that they put Coffee into boiling Water, to prevent the Growth of it as some have affirm'd ; they shell it from the Husks in which it grows, and send it away without more ado.

The Delays of the Ambassadour *Mourat* gave me some Uneasiness, because I apprehended to lose the *Mousson*. I writ to him, that I had taken a Resolution to go and expect him at *Gedda*. He answer'd me, that I might go thither, and that he wou'd endeavour

your to come to me; that the Death of Prince *Basil*, and the Disappointments he had met with in his Journey, had hindred him from joining me. So I dismiss'd my Domesticks, and rewarded them after such a manner, as to give them an Esteem for the French. They melted into Tears, and were all desirous to follow me, but I wou'd not permit it. After that, I took Leave of the *Bacha* of *Messoua*, and I embark'd on the 28th of *October*, on Board a Vessel that had been built at *Surate*.

I had no mind to hazzard my self in the Ships of the Country, which appear'd to be very slight and unsafe, the Planks altho' pitch'd and tarr'd, being only fasten'd together with pitiful Cords, as well as the Sails, which are only made of Mats of the Leaves of *Dome*. Notwithstanding, these Vessels, altho' so ill rigg'd out, and worse govern'd, carry a great Weight, and altho' they have not above seven or eight Men to manage them, they are of great Use in all that Sea.

We

We arriv'd within two Days after our Departure from *Messoua*, at a little Island call'd *Dahleg*. The Vessels which come from the *Indies* commonly put in there for fresh Water, and to lay in Provisions, of which there is great Plenty, except of Bread, which the Inhabitants often want themselves, living for the most Part upon Flesh and Fish. We staid eight Days in this Island by Reason of contrary Winds, but as soon as the Wind was favourable, we pass'd over into another Island call'd *Abugafar*, which signifies *Father of Pardon*. The Captain did not fail to go ashore, and carry a Flambeau to the Tomb of the Wretch *Abugafar*. The Mahometans wou'd be in Fear of a Shipwreck, shou'd they omit it, and they often turn out of their Route, to visit this pretended Saint. We sail'd afterwards in full Sea amongst the Shelves which lie near the Surface of the Water, and are very frequent, which makes that Voyage very dangerous; but the Pilots who are well acquainted with them, pass amongst them boldly, notwithstanding their frequen-

cy. We arriv'd on the Sixth Day at *Kusambur*; 'tis a very high Rock in the Sea, half a League from the *Terris* of *Arabia*. We there cast Anchor between the Sands and the Shore, where we pass'd that Night. The next Day we coasted *Arabia*, and came to an Anchor at *Abraham's Aferse*; that is to say, the Anchorage of *Abraham*; after that we continu'd our Route, and after eight Days Sail we put in at *Confia*. 'Tis a pretty Town belonging to the King of *Mecca*, and the first Port of his Dominions towards the South. They willingly trade hither, because they pay only one Duty to the Custom-House here, whereas they pay double elsewhere. There are large Store-Houses in which they put the Goods they unload, and which are afterwards to be carry'd by Land upon the Backs of Camels to *Gedda*. We lay eight Days at Anchor at *Confia* to refresh our selves, and in Expectation of a fair Wind. 'Twas a Town of great Traffick, being frequented by a great Number of *Mahometan* Merchants, *Arabians*, and *Indians*. They do not admit of the In-

Indian Idolaters. Provisions are cheaper there, and in greater Plenty than at *Gedda*, where we arriv'd on the fifth of *December*, of the Year 1700. From *Kantumkul* to *Gedda*, we only sail'd in the Day-time, and cast Anchor in the Nights by reason of the Shelves.

Gedda is a large Town upon a Bank of the Sea, half a Day's Journey from *Mecca*. The Harbour, or rather the Road, is pretty secure, altho' it has the North-west in the Mouth of it. The Bottom is sound enough in some Places, and lesser Vessels find Water enough to be a-float, but the bigger cannot come up within a League. I went a-shore and was lodg'd in an *Oquel*. An *Oquel* is built with a large Apartment three Stories high at each Corner, with a Court in the Middle. The lowest Story is to lay up the Stores and Provisions; Passengers make use of the upper Floors. There are no other Inns in this Country, no more than in *Turkey*. There are several of these *Oquels* at *Gedda*. As soon as a Traveller alights, he seeks out for Chambers, and a Place for his Bag-

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gage,

gage, for which he pays to the Master a set Price, which never encreases nor diminishes. I gave four Crowns a Month for two Chambers, a Garret and a Kitchen. These *Oquels* are Sanctuaries and sacred Places, free from Insults and Robberies. What is most inconvenient there, is that you are unprovided of all things, so that you must buy your own Furniture, buy and dress your own Meat, unless you have Servants to do it for you.

Two Days after my Arrival at *Gedda*, the King of *Merca* came thither with an Army of Twenty thousand Men. He pitch'd his Tents, and encamp'd at the Gate of the Town which leads to *Mecca*. I had a Sight of him; he is a Man of about Sixty Years of Age, of a Majestick Presence, and somewhat of a ghastly Look. He has a Slit in his under Lip on the right Side. His Subjects and Neighbours do not much commend his Sweetness and Clemency. He oblig'd the Bacha, who resides at *Gedda* for the Grand Signior, to give him Fifteen thousand Crowns of Gold, and threatened him with Military Execution, if he did not forth-

forthwith obey. He also extorted upon all the Merchants that were Subjects of the Grand Signior, and are settled there for trading, and forc'd them to pay thirty thousand Crowns of Gold. He distributed those two Sums amongst his Troops, who are always numerous, and which makes him Master of the Country. There come every Year Caravans from the *Indies*, and from *Turkey* in Pilgrimage to *Mecca*. There are some very rich ones, for the Merchants join themselves to those Caravans, to convey their Merchandice from the *Indies* into *Europe*, and from *Europe* into the *Indies*. When those Caravans arrive at *Mecca* there is held a great Fair, where an infinite Multitude of Mahometan Merchants meet, with all the most precious Commodities of the three Quarters of the World, which they barter together. In the Years 1699 and 1700 the King of *Mecca* took a Frolick to pillage the Caravans of the *Indies* and *Turkey*. This Prince calls himself *Ghorif* or *Noble by Excellence*, pretending to be descended from the Prophet *Mahomet*. The Grand Signior

was for a long time in Possession of giving the Investiture of this Kingdom; but the *Cherif* who is a fierce and haughty Man has withdrawn himself from Subjection to the Grand Signior whom he calls by way of Contempt *Elm Mamluq*, as much as to say, Son of a Slave.

Medina is the Capital of his Kingdom; 'tis renown'd for *Mahomet's* Tomb, as *Mecca* is famous for his Birth. The King does not often reside at *Medina* because he is almost always at the Head of his Armies. The Turks when they come to *Medina* pull off their Cloaths out of Respect, only keeping a Scarf to wrap about their Waist; they come three or four Leagues in this Equipage; those who are unwilling to submit to this Law, pay a Sum of Money to procure a Sacrifice to God in Honour of *Mahomet*.

Gedda is not a Place where the Christians can make any Settlement, particularly the Franks, by Reason of the Neighbourhood of *Mecca*: The Mahometans would never endure it. Nevertheless there is great trading thither

thither, for all the Vessels which return from the *Indies* come to an Anchor there. The Grand Seignior does usually employ 30 great Vessels in those Seas for the Transportation of Merchandizes. Those Ships which might be fitted for a hundred Pieces of Canon, have none at all. Every thing is dear at *Gedda*, even as much as Water, by Reason of the great Concourse of so many different Nations. One Pint of Water of our Measure of *Paris*, wou'd cost two Pence or three Pence, because 'tis brought four Leagues off. The Walls of the Town are good for nothing, the Fortress which is towards the Sea is somewhat better, but would not be able to bear a Siege, altho' it has some Pieces of Canon for its Defence. The greatest Part of the Houses are built of Stone, and are flat-roof'd after the Eastern Manner.

I was shew'd upon the Bank of the Sea, about the Distance of two Musket Shot, a Tomb, which they assured me to be that of our first Mother, *Eve*. The Country round about *Gedda* is very unpleasant, there is nothing to be seen but barren Rocks, and un-

cultivated Places full of Sand. I was desirous to see *Adels*, but 'tis forbid to Christians to appear there upon Pains of Death. There is no River between *Gedda* and *Mera*, as some have erroneously affirm'd. There is only a Fountain, from whence they fetch the Water that is drunk at *Gedda*.

After a Months stay in this Town, I receiv'd Advice that the *Bambassador Minor*, cou'd not come so soon as he design'd, and that if he lost the Opportunity of the *Monsoon*, he would be forc'd to remain a Year longer in *Ethiopia*. This determin'd me to a Resolution of Embarking upon those Vessels, which were preparing to go to *Suez*, and to visit *Mount Sinai*, where *Menas* Appointed me to wait for him, in case he cou'd not come to *Gedda*.

On the twelfth of *January* of the Year 1701 I went on Board some Vessels, which the Grand Signior had caus'd to be Build at *Suez*. Altho' those Ships are very large, yet they have only one Deck, and the Sides are so high, that the tallest Man cannot

cannot reach them altho' standing. The Cables are very thick and hard, their Masts and Sails don't differ much from ours. What is particular in these Vessels is, that they have such large Conservatories or Cisterns, that they can keep five Months Provision of Water for a hundred and fifty Men. Those Cisterns are so well wainth'd on the Inside, that they preserve the Water much more pure and clear, than our Casks (which are us'd in Europe). We had a great deal of Difficulty to disengage our selves from those Banks of Sand, that are round about *Godda*, and of which that Sea is full. This oblig'd us to keep near to the Shore, which we had on our Right-hand. Every Night we cast Anchor not to run upon the Banks, which the Pilots of those Seas avoid with a wonderful Dexterity; they are to be seen on all Sides near the Surface of the Water, and those Pilots pass boldly thro' them, by the great Experience they have from their very Infancy, for several of those Mariners are born in the Vessels, which may be look'd on as floating Magazines. Af-

ter five or six Days Sail, we came to an Anchor before the Isle of *Hassama*, two Leagues from the *Terra Firma*. This Place is not inhabited, but it furnishes excellent Water. From thence to *Suez*, they cast Anchor every Night near the Land, and the *Arabs* are not wanting to bring in Refreshments.

Twelve or thirteen Days from our leaving *Hassama*, we got into the Road of *Tambea*. This is a pretty considerable Town defended by a Castle which is on the Bank of the Sea, the Fortifications of which are worth little. It belongs to the King of *Mecca*. I did not go to take a View of it, because the *Arabs* who make Incursions on all Sides into those Quarters, rob Passengers, and abuse those who go Ashore. A contrary Wind kept us eight Days in this Road. Two days after our departure from *Tambea*, we cast Anchor between two *Shoals*, and there we sustain'd so furious a Tempest, that two of our Cables broke, which put us in great Danger of being lost; but the Tempest had no long Continuance.

Misula

Misula was the next Place we came to; 'tis a Town much of the same Bigness as *Tambeau*, it has also a Castle but of little Defence. From thence we pass'd on to *Chiurma*. This is a very good Haven, where Ships are sheltered from Tempests. In this Place there is neither Town nor Village, but only some Tents in which the Arabs dwell. 'Twas the 22d of *April* before we reach'd *Chiurma*, by Reason that the contrary Winds retarded us. The *Mousson* being advanc'd, I despair'd of holding out longer at Sea, and therefore I landed at *Chiurma*; there I took Camels which brought me to *Tour* in six Days. *Tour* belongs to the Grand Signior. It has a Garrison in the Castle with an *Aga* who commands there, and a great Number of Grecian Christians in the Village. They have a Monastery of their own Rite, which depends upon the great Monastery of Mount *Sinai*. I was informed in this Place, that the Arch-bishop of the Monastery of Mount *Sinai* who was Paralytick, and who had been advertis'd of my Arrival at *Gedda*, had left Orders at *Tour*

to

to engage me to give him a Visit. I began my Journey, and took the Route towards that famous Monastery, where I did not arrive till after three Days travelling thro' impracticable Ways, and very difficult Mountains. The Monastery of Mount Sinai is situated at the Foot of the Mountain; its Gates are constantly walPd up, for fear of the Incursions of the *Arabs*. They drew me up by a Pulley with Cords, and my Baggage in like manner.

I immediately paid my Respects to the Archbishop, who is a Venerable old Man of fourscore and thirteen Years of Age; one Half of his Body was struck with the dead Palsy; I cou'd not but pity his Condition; I had been acquainted with him some Years before at *Caire*, having had him under Cure for a Distemper, of which I recover'd him. I had the good Fortune at this Time to set him up, so as to be able to say Mass in his Pontificals upon Easter Day, which he had not done of a long Time.

This

This Monastery is solidly built with good and strong Walls. The Church is magnificent; 'tis the Work of the Emperour *Justinian*, as the Religious affirm. There are to the Number of Fifty, without reckoning those who go abroad to beg Alms. Their Life is very austere, they drink no Wine, and never eat Flesh, not so much as in the Time of their greatest Sickness. The Water which they drink is excellent; it comes from a Spring which is in the Middle of the Monastery. Thrice a Week they are allow'd a little Glass of strong Waters, which they extract from Dates. They fast very rigorously the four *Lents* which are observ'd by the Eastern Church. At other Times they live upon Herbs and Roots, and Salt-Fish. They rise in the Night to sing the Divine Office, and spend the greatest Part of it in the Quire. They shew'd me a Shrine of white Marble, in which is deposited the Body of *St. Catharine*, which they do not expose to view. They only shew a Hand of the Saint which is much dry'd, the Fingers whereof are full of gold Rings

Rings. The Archbishop who is also Abbot of the Monastery, has under him a Prior, whose Power is not great, unless the Archbishop be absent. I had the Curiosity to go up to the Top of the Mountain, as far as the Place where God gave the two Tables of the Law to *Moses*. The Archbishop had the Goodness to order some of his Religious to bear me Company.

We mounted at least four thousand Steps before we came to the Top of that famous Mountain, where they have built a pretty neat Chapel. We afterwards visited the Chapel of *Elias*. We took a Breakfast at the Fountain, and then having well tir'd ourselves we return'd to the Monastery. The neighbouring Mountain is yet higher. I had not the Courage to go to it, not being quite recover'd of the Weariness of my first Day's Journey.

I waited a Month in this Monastery in Expectation of the Embassador *Mourat*. I began to be tir'd, and to despair of seeing him, when unexpectedly Word was brought me, that
he

he was not far off, and was coming towards the Monastery. This News gave me a sensible Joy. I went to meet him, and presented him to the Archbishop, who receiv'd him with a great deal of Civility. He related to me all the Misfortunes of his Voyage. He gave me to understand, that the Death of Prince *Basil* had for a While retarded his Departure; that the Emperour however, notwithstanding his excessive Grief, had given him Audience and his Dispatches; that he had halted at *Duerna* to wait for new Orders from the Emperour. He recounted to me the ill Usage he had receiv'd from the King of *Mecca*, who had taken from him the *Æthiopian* Children he was to carry into *France*, and that to compleat his Misfortunes, the Vessel on board which were the Presents, had been cast away near *Towr*, that nine large Vessels laden with Coffee, were detain'd in that Port, because they came out too late, and had lost the Opportunity of the *Monsson*. This Disappointment made Coffee very dear at *Gaire*, those Vessels not having.

ving been able to reach *Suez*, where they unlade their Merchandise to take in other Lading; as for Example, Linen-Cloth, Corn, Rice and other Provisions, which they draw from *Cairo*, in exchange for those of the *Indies*.

After that the Ambassador *Moor* had rested himself for five Days at Mount *Sinat*, we return'd into the Route of *Ten*, where we rejoind'd his Retinue and Equipage. We staid only one Night in that Haven, and the next Day continu'd our Journey by Land, coasting it for the most part by the Sea-side until we came to *Suez*, where we arriv'd last five Days.

Suez is a little Town at the further end of the *Red-Sea*. 'Tis the Haven that belongs to *Cairo*, from whence it is distant about three Days Journey. This Town is commanded by a Castle built after the ancient Fashion, and ill fortified. It has a Governour with Two hundred Men in Garrison, and excellent Magazines. The Country round about is no ways pleasant, where you see nothing but Desarts.

Deserts fill'd with Rocks and Sand. This Town is as unprovided of Water as *Gadde*, but it is here at a more reasonable Rate, tho' they bring it from afar.

At my coming to *Tour*, I writ to Monsieur *Mallet*, the French Consul at *Caire*, to notify to him the Arrival of the Ambassador. He sent to me to make all the Haste I cou'd to *Caire*; I obey'd, and took the Opportunity of the first Caravan that parted. It was compos'd of about Eight thousand Camels. I my self mounted upon a Dromedary, and having kept Company for three Leagues with the Caravan, I gave them the Slip, and got in Four and twenty Hours to *Caire*. These Dromedaries are less than Camels; their Pace is hard but very swift; and they travel Four and twenty Hours together without Stop or Stay. They make no other Use of them than to carry Men. At my coming to *Caire*, I gave an Account of my Voyage to our Consul, and order'd a handsome House to be made ready for the Reception of the Ambassador, who arriv'd two Days after.

Mon-

Monſieur Abbeſſe ſent him at his Arrival all ſorts of Reſreſhments, and came to an Agreement with him, that I ſhou'd paſs on to *France*, to inform the Court of what I have here related.

I cou'd write many more Particulars in relation to *Ethiopia*, and give an Account of the Government of that great Empire, of their Religion, Offices, Tribunals of Juſtice, and even of *Brava* it ſelf, and Phyſick; but it wou'd be neceſſary for this, that I enjoy'd that Repoſe which is always greedily ſought for, after ſuch long and painful Voyages, and that the Air of *France* had reſtor'd me my Health, of which we do not taſte the Sweetneſs, untill it be perfect; for we Phyſicians, who cure others, oftentimes have not the Art to cure ourſelves.

F I N I S.

